



Yearbook
The Historical Society
of
Fairfax County, Virginia

Volume 32

2017



Yearbook
The Historical Society
of
Fairfax County, Virginia

Volume 32

2017



Editor
Paula Elsey

*Published in honor of
Fairfax County's 275th anniversary*

Yearbook
Volume 32: 2017

Published by

The Historical Society of Fairfax County, Virginia, Inc.
P.O. Box 415, Fairfax, Virginia 22038
www.fairfaxhistoricalsociety.org

© 2017 by The Historical Society of Fairfax County, Virginia, Inc.
All rights reserved. Permission to reproduce material should be directed
to the Society.

ISBN 978-1-934285-35-0

Front Cover: *Wellington Fairfax*.
Photographic reproduction by Lee Hubbard

Table of Contents

In Memoriam	v
The Other Fairfax Family	1
<i>Claudette Crouch Ward</i>	
The 1861 Secession Referendum in Fairfax County, Virginia	21
<i>Michael Shumaker</i>	
The Bog Wallow Ambuscade.	51
<i>Michael S. Mitchell</i>	
The Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933–1942: Roosevelt’s “Tree Army”	89
<i>Mary Buckingham Lipsey</i>	
Officers and Directors of the Society	111
Index	112

IN MEMORIAM

David Bettwy
Dr. William Busey
Helen E. Crouch
Jack L. Hiller
Nancy Berry Keeran
Gerald L. Lyons
Henry C. Mackall
Nancy S. Mackall
Beth Mitchell
Myles Mitchell
James D. Munson
Ross Netherton
H. Benjamin Peck
Leo Pflugshaupt
Pat M. Pflugshaupt
Sandra Rathbun
DeOrman Robey Jr.
Frieda Crane Robey
Mary Edith Roysdon
Milburn P. Sanders
Iris Robey Stickel
Mayo S. Stuntz
Willard Webb

The Other Fairfax Family

By Claudette Crouch Ward

For many years, families with the surname of Fairfax resided in the Clifton, Fairfax Station, and Centreville areas of Fairfax County, Virginia.¹ People have often asked, Are they kin to Lord Fairfax for whom Fairfax County was named? The answer is that they are almost certainly distantly related. All of this branch of the Fairfax family descended from William Fairfax of Maryland,² who has often been confused with William Fairfax of Belvoir.

The earliest known ancestor of this Fairfax line to come to America was Thomas Fairfax, who settled in Calvert County, Maryland, in 1667.³ Thomas Fairfax married Elizabeth Philpott, daughter of Edward Philpott, whose father settled in Charles County, Maryland, before 1655. He had a plantation called Court's Place on the north side of the Potomac River and the west side of the Wicomico River. Thomas Fairfax died about 1698, and an inventory of his estate was filed in Calvert County, Maryland, on 12 June 1698.⁴

His son was John Fairfax. He married Catherine Norris, daughter of Henry Norris of Charles County, Maryland, who died in 1713/14. Norris left all of his property, including his estate, Kitt's Choice, to his son-in-law John Fairfax and grandson John Fairfax Jr.⁵

John Fairfax Jr. married Mary Scott, daughter of Edward Scott of Baltimore County, Maryland. John and Mary inherited her father's estate, Scott's Folly, in Anne Arundel County, Maryland.⁶ Their son, William Fairfax, was born in 1722 in Charles County, Maryland. He married first Benedicta Blancett. William and Benedicta had six children: Jonathan, Hezekiah, Catherine, Ann, Eada, and Benedicta. After the death of his first wife, William married, in 1762, Elizabeth Buckner, daughter of Peyton Buckner. They had four children: John, Elizabeth, William, and Sarah.⁷

In 1789, William sold his Maryland lands and bought 1,004 acres in Prince William County, Virginia, from Rhodam and Jane Blancett and moved there near Occoquan in that year.⁸ Four acres was reserved for a meeting house—which later became the historic Bacon Race Church.⁹ Today, only the cemetery remains at that site. William Fairfax died in 1793. His oldest son, Jonathan, had died in 1787.¹⁰

Jonathan had married Sarah Wright. Their son, Henry Fairfax, was born in 1774.¹¹ He went into the shipping business and exported tobacco from Dumfries. In the War of 1812, his fleet of vessels contributed to the cause of our country. He held the rank of captain on the staff of Enoch Renno in the 36th Regiment of Militia.¹²

Captain Henry Fairfax bought Leesylvania, the home of Henry Lee II, in 1825.¹³ It was here that Henry “Lighthorse Harry” Lee of the American Revolution (and father of Robert E. Lee) and Richard Bland Lee of Sully Plantation were born.¹⁴ Henry is buried at Leesylvania. His tombstone reads, “Henry Fairfax died Oct. 6, 1847, 74th year of age, son of Jonathan Fairfax and Sarah his wife, was born on the twenty-ninth of September 1774.”¹⁵ Leesylvania is now a state park, with a museum that has exhibits and information on both the Lee and Fairfax families.

Henry’s son, John Walter Fairfax, was born 30 June 1828.¹⁶ In 1852, John bought Oak Hill, which was the home of President James Monroe in Loudoun County, from Monroe’s grandson. John Walter was a colonel in the Confederate States Army (CSA), serving as a staff officer to General James Longstreet. He surrendered at Appomattox on 9 April 1865.¹⁷

In 1863, Union General George Meade used Oak Hill as his headquarters. One day, he was sitting on the south portico with Mrs. Fairfax when he saw a lone horseman ride across a far field. He asked her, “Who was that?”

Mrs. Fairfax replied, “That was John S. Mosby.”¹⁸

John Walter was married to Mary Jane Rogers, the daughter of Colonel Hamilton Rogers of Oakham in Loudoun County.¹⁹ Mosby and J.E.B. Stuart had stopped at the Rogers’ house on 29 December after Stuart’s Dumfries Christmas raid and the raid on Burke’s Station in December 1862. It was there, on the morning of 30 December, that Stuart agreed to leave Mosby behind with nine men to begin his activity as a Partisan Ranger.²⁰



Bacon Race Church stood off of what now is Davis Ford Road in Prince William County, Virginia.

RELIC Room, Bull Run Library, Manassas, VA



Oak Hill, near Aldie, Loudoun County, Virginia, 1930. Built by President James Monroe in 1823. Purchased by John Walter Fairfax in 1850.
Library of Congress, LC-J7-VA-2043, Washington, DC

Because of the Civil War, Colonel Fairfax was in a difficult financial situation. He was forced to sell Oak Hill in 1870 and return to Leesylvania to live. His son, Henry, bought Oak Hill back in 1885. He became a state senator and served as a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1901–1902.²¹ Oak Hill was sold out of the Fairfax family in 1920. It is still a large farm that is privately owned and carefully maintained.²²

William Fairfax's second son, Hezekiah Fairfax, married Margaret Calvert (daughter of George Calvert "the younger") of Prince William County, Virginia.²³ Hezekiah was an overseer for George Washington at his Ferry Farm in 1785 and for several years, his half brother, John Fairfax, was Washington's overseer at Mount Vernon in the 1780s.²⁴

Hezekiah and his wife, Margaret, lived on 350 acres in Prince William County devised to him by his father.²⁵ They were the progenitors of most of the Fairfax family who lived in the southern part of Fairfax County. Their children were as follows:²⁶

- John Hezekiah married Mary Mills Davis
- Sandford married Priscilla [maiden name unknown]
- William [did not marry]
- Mary Scott married Matthew Davis
- Sally married William Ashford
- Henny married Robert West
- Elizabeth married French Simpson
- Nancy married Joseph Crouch²⁷
- Susan married William Simpson
- Minor married Verlinda [maiden name unknown]
- Thompson married Nancy [maiden name unknown]

John Hezekiah and Mary Mills Davis had Rebecca, John, Benjamin Franklin, Isaac N., Virginia Catherine, Martha, James M., Mary Frances, William M., Susan, Thomas Monroe, Enos Smith, Luther, George Dallas, Wellington, and Eloise.²⁸ Eloise married Felix Compton.²⁹ Compton Road near Centreville is named for this family.

Many of these Fairfax men served in the Confederate Army. Several were Mosby's Rangers. James W. Fairfax, son of Sandford and Priscilla, born ca. 1828, was a cooper. He married Margaret Woodyard in Fairfax

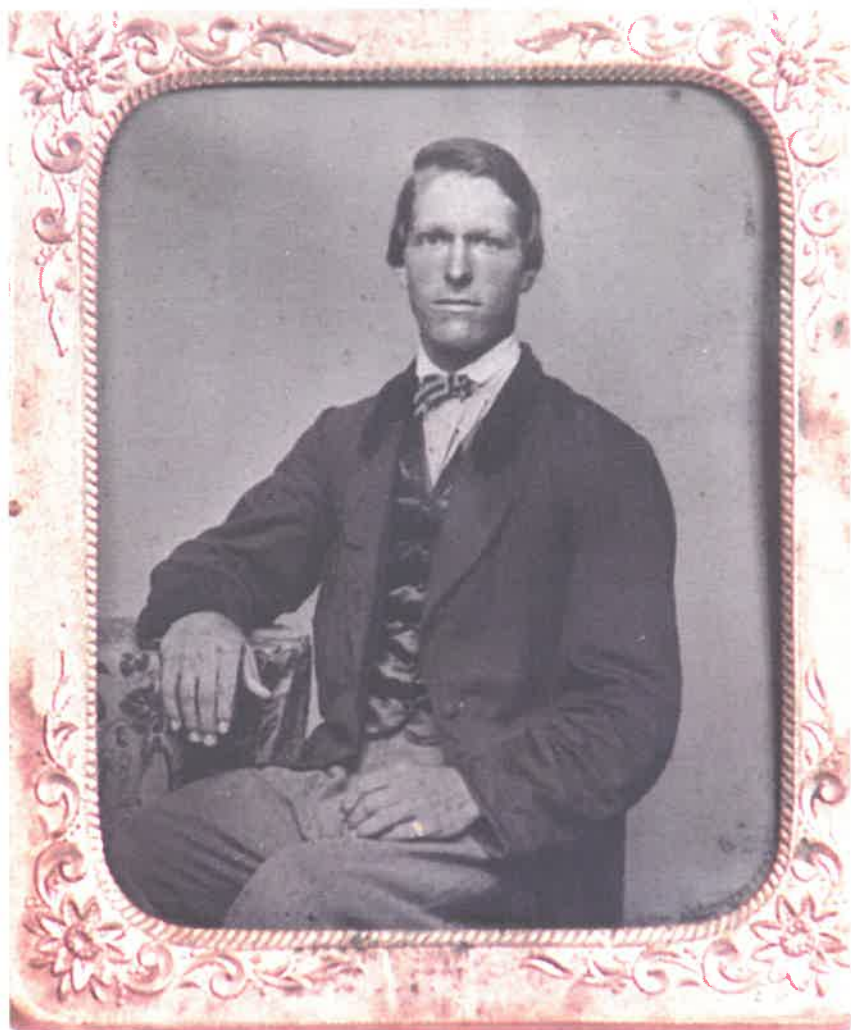
County. He lived on Wolf Run Shoals Road near present-day Clifton. He was a private in Co. D, 17th VA Infantry.³⁰ His brother, George W. Fairfax, born in 1833, was a private in Co. B, 49th VA. George also lived on Wolf Run Shoals Road.³¹

Isaac N. Fairfax, son of John Hezekiah and Mary, married, first, Charlotte Barker and, second, Susannah Young.³² Isaac enlisted in Ball's Fairfax Cavalry (Co. A, 5th Virginia Cavalry) as a private on April 25, 1861. He voted for secession with his company in Alexandria on 21 May 1861.³³ When the Union troops moved into Alexandria early on the morning of May 24, the men in Ball's Cavalry were all taken prisoner. Later they were released and returned to Fairfax County.³⁴ Isaac enlisted in May 1862 at Fairfax as a 4th Corporal in Co. H, 15th VA Cavalry.³⁵

Co. H, 15th VA Cavalry, was the Prince William Partisan Rangers organized by Captain William B. Brawner and mustered into service on September 29, 1862, under the Partisan Ranger law.³⁶ On 11 June 1863, Mosby led a raid on a Union cavalry camp at Seneca, Maryland. He was accompanied by 70 of his men and 30 men of Brawner's 15th VA Cavalry. In the raid, Brawner was killed and Captain James C. Kincheloe took command.³⁷ The unit was often called Kincheloe's Rangers or the Chinquapin Rangers.³⁸ The company disbanded on 4 December 1864. Most of the members joined Mosby's 43rd Battalion Virginia Cavalry as Co. H.³⁹

Thomas M. Fairfax, son of John Hezekiah and Mary, enlisted as a private in Co. A, 43rd Battalion VA Cavalry, in June 1863. He married Lucinda Davis in Fairfax County. He was born ca. 1838 and died in Alexandria on 26 May 1912.⁴⁰

Thomas' brother, Wellington "L.W." Fairfax, enlisted first in Co. H, 15th VA Cavalry, under Kincheloe on 15 July 1863, in Fairfax County. He was present until 4 December 1864, when the 15th was disbanded. He then joined the 43rd Battalion under Mosby in Co. H. Wellington was married to Vienna Davis. They lived near present-day Clifton.⁴¹ He is buried in the Fairfax/Buckley Cemetery on Wolf Run Shoals Road. His son, Nicholas Fairfax, married Hattie Buckley and lived on Lee Highway (Route 29) near Centreville, where Buckley's Reserve is now.⁴²



Wellington Fairfax.

Photographic reproduction by Lee Hubbard



Vienna Davis Fairfax, wife of Wellington Fairfax, holding their daughter Eloise Fairfax.

Courtesy of Diane King



Wellington Fairfax's sister Eloise. She married Felix Compton.
Courtesy of Diane King



Wellington Fairfax's house at Fairfax Station, Virginia. From left to right: Wellington Fairfax, James Fairfax, and an unidentified man.
 Courtesy of Diane King



Wellington Fairfax's house is now within the boundaries of Fountainhead Regional Park.
 Photograph taken by Lee Hubbard in December 2010

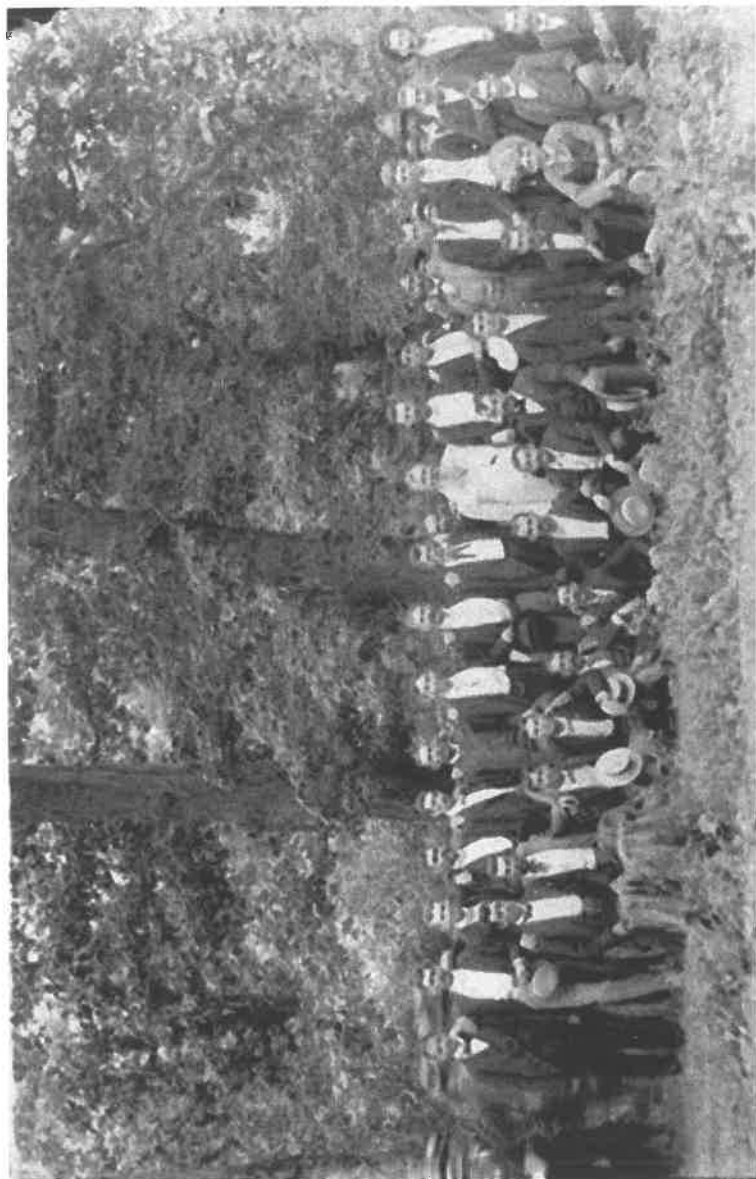


The Nicholas P. Fairfax family. Hattie Ann Buckley Fairfax is holding daughter Myrtle A. Fairfax. Daughter Gladys Virginia Fairfax is standing in front of her father, Nicholas.
Photographic reproduction by B. Diane King

Information about William Fairfax of Maryland's other children includes the following:

- Catherine Fairfax married William Garner, who served in the American Revolution. He was an overseer at Mount Vernon for several years.
- Ann Fairfax married William Warder.
- Eada Fairfax married Burrwell Calvert.
- It is unknown whether Benedicta married.
- John Fairfax married, first, Mary Byrne and, second, Ann Lloyd. He lived on 400 acres in Prince William County devised to him by his father. John was hired by George Washington from 1783 to 1790 as assistant to Lund Washington, the manager of Mount Vernon. He served as a colonel in the 104th Virginia Infantry in the War of 1812.
- William Fairfax married Leitha Adams.
- Elizabeth Fairfax married Richard Pell.
- Sarah Fairfax married Henry Davis, son of Francis and Mary Davis.⁴³ Their son John married Sarah Atkinson, daughter of Bennett and Margaret Coulter Atkinson. Their son Henry E. Davis, born 25 March 1844, enlisted as a private in Co. H, 15th VA Cavalry, which was led by Captain Brawner, and joined Co. H, 43rd Battalion VA Cavalry, when the 15th was disbanded. He lived near present-day Clifton and died in 1912.⁴⁴

Members of the William Fairfax of Maryland's branch of the Fairfax family intermarried with old families in Fairfax and Prince William counties over and over again. There are many descendants still living in the area today. They have continued the legacy of being actively involved in and giving to their community.



*Henry Davis (wearing a black string tie) is standing in the middle of this photograph, next to the man wearing the white suit.
Author's photograph collection*



Wessalena Robey Buckley (at left) and John Washington Buckley.
Courtesy of Diane King



A Model T Ford automobile that was owned by John Washington Buckley which now belongs to Linda J. Davis. Some Fairfax family descendants are shown enjoying a ride around the neighborhood. Author's photograph collection



Kenyon Davis, a descendant of William Fairfax of Maryland, was a life-long resident of Centreville, Virginia. He was an active participant in his community, serving as a volunteer with the Centreville Fire Department for many years.

Courtesy of the Davis Family

Endnotes

- 1 "The Fairfax Family," *Fairfax Herald*, 30 January 1891, 2.
- 2 Thomas Kemp Cartmell, *Shenandoah Valley Pioneers and Their Descendants: A History of Frederick County from Its Formation in 1738 to 1908* (Berkeley, WV: Eddy Press, 1963), 244.
- 3 Leslie Davis Dawson, *History of the Dawson-Davis Family and Related Families of Fairfax and Prince William Counties Virginia* (Privately printed: 1984), 245.
- 4 *Ibid.*, 245–46.
- 5 *Ibid.*, 246–47; Cartmell, 247.
- 6 Dawson, 246–47.
- 7 *Ibid.*, 246–47; Prince William County Will Book H, 118.
- 8 Prince William County Deed Book 4: 439–40; Prince William County Deed Book 1:4.
- 9 Prince William County Deeds 1791–1796 (abstracts), recorded 7 October 1794; *Fairfax Herald*, 1891; D'Anne A. Evans, *Prince William County: A Pictorial History* (Norfolk, VA: Donning Company, 1989), 81.
- 10 Dawson, 248; Lyon Gardiner Tyler, *Men of Mark of Virginia, Ideals of American Life: A Collection of Biographies of the Leading Men in the State*, Vol. IV (Washington, DC: Men of Mark Publishing Co., 1906), 116.
- 11 Tyler, 116; Cartmell, 248.
- 12 Tyler, 116.
- 13 Connie Pendleton Stuntz, *This Was Virginia, 1900–1927: As Shown by the Glass Negatives of Harry Shannon, The Rambler* (Virginia Beach, VA: Hallmark, 1998), 95–96.
- 14 Eleanor Lee-Templeman, *Northern Virginia Heritage: A Pictorial Compilation of the Historical Sites and Homes in the Counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, Fauquier, Prince William and Stafford, and the Cities of Alexandria and Fredericksburg* (Privately printed: 1966).
- 15 Stuntz, 95.
- 16 Tyler, 115.
- 17 *Ibid.*, 117; Cartmell, 248; Susan Hellman, "Oak Hill: James Monroe's Home in Loudoun" in *Bulletin of the Historical Society of Loudoun County, Virginia* (Leesburg, VA: Historical Society of Loudoun County, Virginia, 1997), 59.
- 18 Hellman, 59–60; Thomas J. Evans, *Mosby's Confederacy: A Guide to the Roads and Sites of Colonel John Singleton Mosby* (Shippensburg, PA: White Mane Publishing Co., 1991), 150.
- 19 Evans, 25.
- 20 *Ibid.*
- 21 Tyler, 49–50.
- 22 Hellman, 60–61.
- 23 Dawson, 248; Cartmell, 247. Margaret Calvert was a direct descendant of Leonard Calvert, son of Lord Baltimore. Margaret was probably the second wife of Hezekiah Fairfax. I have been unable to determine which of his children, if any,

- are by his first wife, or her name. All of the sources I cite say only that he married Margaret Calvert. George Calvert the Younger (ca. 1727–1802) was father of Margaret. *Calverts of Northern Virginia*, 222; John P. Alcock, *Five Generations of the Family of Burr Harrison of Virginia, 1650–1800* (Berwyn Heights, MD: Heritage Books, 1991).
- 24 Donald Jackson and Dorothy Twohig, eds., *The Diaries of George Washington*, Vol. IV (Charlottesville, VA: University Press of Virginia, 1976), 141, 183, 249, 373; Cartmell, 247–48.
 - 25 Dawson, 245–52.
 - 26 *Ibid.*, 248–52; Prince William County Chancery Court Final File 1840-002 (1838) lists the surviving children of Hezekiah Fairfax: Henrietta, married to Robert West and no longer living in Virginia; Sally, married to William Ashford and no longer living in Virginia; Molly, married to Matthias Davis; and Catherine, married to Warren Davis. Joseph Crouch had married a daughter of Hezekiah Fairfax; she was deceased by the time of the filing, so her children were named. Her children were Liddy, married to Hezekiah Reeves; Bernard Crouch; Polly Crouch; and Hezekiah Crouch. Hezekiah Crouch was the great-great-grandfather of the author.
 - 27 Dawson, 251.
 - 28 *Ibid.*, 248–52.
 - 29 Kenyon Davis, a grandson of Eloise Fairfax and Felix Compton, confirmed the local oral tradition that Compton Road is named for the Compton family. He was also the grandson of Henry E. Davis, who was in Co. H, 15th VA Cavalry, then in Co. H, 43rd VA Battalion Cavalry.
 - 30 William Page Johnson II, *Brothers and Cousins: Confederate Soldiers and Sailors of Fairfax County, Virginia* (Athens, GA: Iberian Publishing Company, 1995), 50–51.
 - 31 *Ibid.*, 50.
 - 32 *Ibid.*, 51.
 - 33 *Ibid.*, 51.
 - 34 Paula A. Elsey, ed., *Stone Ground: A History of Union Mills* (Fairfax, VA: Fairfax County History Commission, 2003), 38.
 - 35 Johnson, 51.
 - 36 Bethlehem Good Housekeeping Club (Manassas, VA) Writer's Program of the Work Projects Administration, *Prince William: The Story of Its People and Places* (Richmond, VA: Whittet and Shepperson, 1941), 234.
 - 37 *Ibid.*, 234; James A. Ramage, *Gray Ghost: The Life of Col. John Singleton Mosby* (Lexington, KY: University Press of Kentucky, 1999), 91.
 - 38 Elsey, 67. A *chinquapin* is a small nut similar to a filbert, which often grew along the road on small trees or bushes. It had a burr like a chestnut, except smaller. It was very irritating to a horse if one of these burrs got caught under its saddle.
 - 39 *Prince William*, 234.
 - 40 Johnson, 52.
 - 41 *Ibid.*, 52

- 42 Personal knowledge of the author (Hattie Buckley was her cousin).
- 43 Dawson, 252, 254, 255. Note that a descendant, Don Wilson, corrects an error made by Dawson. Wilson states that Elizabeth Fairfax was married to Richard Pell, not John as Dawson claimed.
- 44 Johnson, 255.



Portrayed as a bulldog in this 1861 cartoon, General in Chief of the U.S. Army Winfield Scott stands guard over a large cut of beef representing Washington, DC. A greyhound (Jefferson Davis) wearing a broad-brimmed planter's hat and wrapped in a Confederate flag is shown slinking away.

LC-USZ62-92054, Library of Congress, Washington, DC

The 1861 Secession Referendum in Fairfax County, Virginia

By Michael Shumaker

In November 1860, Abraham Lincoln was elected President of the United States, with less than 40 percent of the popular vote in a four-man race. Three months later, seven states formed the Confederate States of America (CSA). It required three additional months for Virginia to move from being pro-Union to supporting secession.

Virginia pursued a very deliberate approach. Between November 1860 and 23 May 1861, the Old Dominion exhausted every avenue to prevent secession and war: holding citizen meetings, calling a peace conference of the states, creating a state convention to debate secession, and efforts to mediate between the federal government and the CSA. Unlike all but two of the other states of the Confederacy, the voters of Virginia made the final decision to secede in a statewide referendum. In that referendum, Fairfax County voted reluctantly, but overwhelmingly, for the ordinance of secession.

1860 Presidential Election

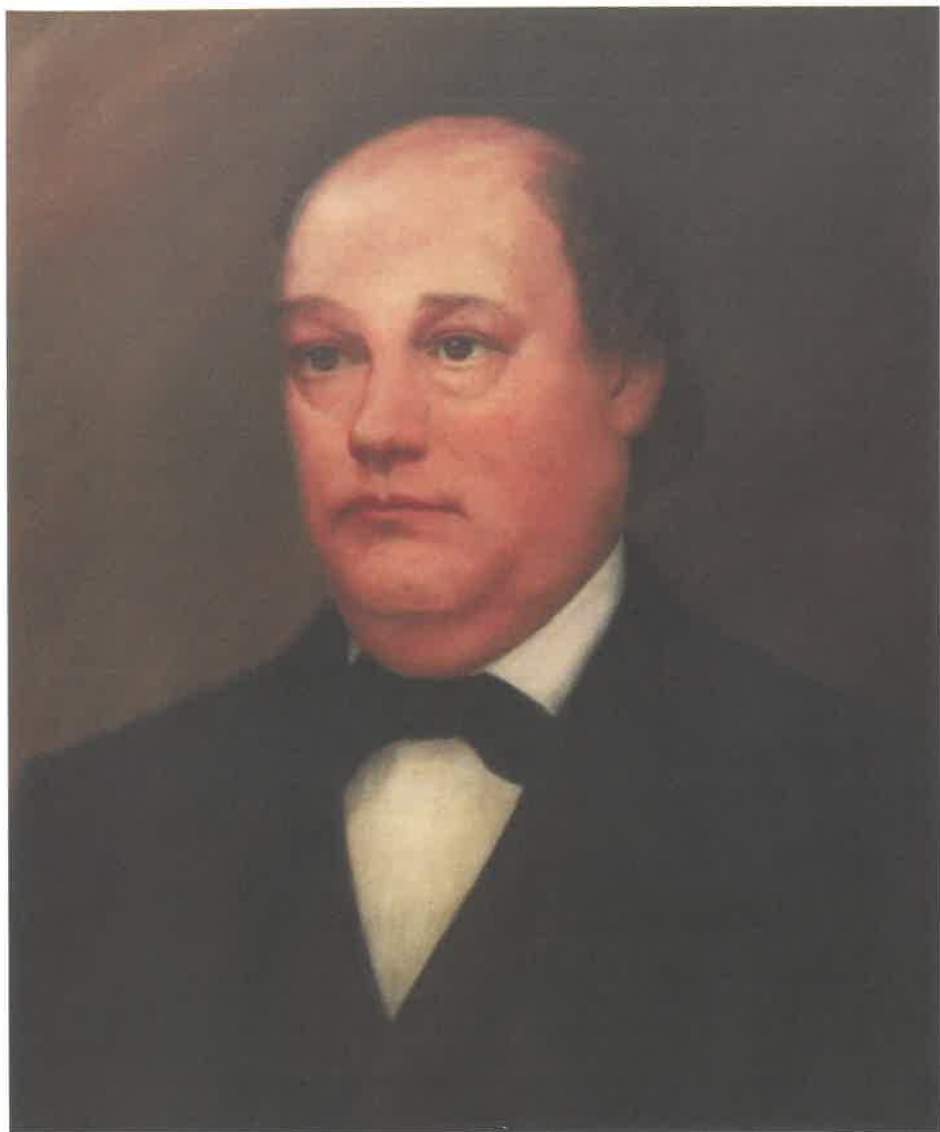
Nationwide, Lincoln polled almost 40 percent; Stephen A. Douglas, 29 percent; John Breckinridge, 18 percent; and John Bell, nearly 13 percent. Observers noted that in the North and South, Lincoln and Breckinridge—the candidates who opposed any compromise on slavery in the Territories—won more votes than the two moderates.

Virginia supported one of the moderates, John Bell.¹ He carried Alexandria, Fairfax, and Loudoun.² Locally, “Ninety-nine percent of northern Virginia opposed Lincoln: almost universal condemnation of the man, who, it was thought, was committed to support the Northern section of the country at the expense of the South’s constitutional rights and economic well-being.”³



Presidential candidate John Bell.

LC-USZC2-2599, Library of Congress, Washington, DC



Henry W. Thomas headed up Fairfax County's Committee of Nine.
Courtesy of Fairfax County Circuit Court Archives, Fairfax, VA

Lincoln accumulated only 107 votes in northern Virginia—55 cast in Occoquan.⁴ Statewide, things were similar:

Nearly 90 percent of Virginia voters cast ballots against Lincoln's Republican policy of excluding slavery from the territories and Steven A. Douglas's Democratic Platform of allowing settlers themselves to exclude it. Third party candidate John Bell carried the state by a slim margin.⁵

The difference between Fairfax and Loudoun counties' reactions to Lincoln's victory was stark.

On 19 November 1860, a public meeting at Fairfax Court House appointed a Committee of Nine. Headed by Henry W. Thomas, this committee consisted of John Burke, R.H. Cockerill, William Dulany, R.R. Fowle, Thomas R. Love, Alfred Moss, and Thomas Murray. The name of the ninth member has not been found.⁶ They were to study secession and prepare resolutions for presentation to the public. On 1 December 1860, Thomas reported that the committee failed to reach consensus, so he presented his own resolution supporting the Union but criticizing Northern violations of the U.S. Constitution. That same day in Loudoun County, Colonel John R. Carter presented resolutions justifying secession that were accepted unanimously.⁷

General Assembly Convened 7 January 1861

The first order of business was a proposal to summon a secession convention. Governor John Letcher opposed it because Virginia had initiated a peace conference of all states in Washington for 4 February 1861. Virginia unionists also opposed a convention. Yet at 140 public meetings across the Commonwealth, the public had expressed a desire for a convention. The General Assembly approved an act calling for the 4 February election of delegates to a secession convention that would convene ten days later. A total of 152 delegates (corresponding in number to the membership of the House of Delegates) would be chosen. Virginians would also vote on whether the convention's recommendations should be submitted to a referendum.



Virginia's Governor John Letcher, ca. 1860-1870.
LC-USZ62-38891, Library of Congress, Washington, DC

Three weeks of intense campaigning followed. Candidates ran as secessionists, unionists, or moderates.⁸ However, modern-day Virginians need to keep in mind the following:

The term “unionist” had an altogether different meaning in Virginia at the time. Richmond delegates Marmaduke Johnston and William McFarland were both outspoken conservatives. Yet in their respective campaigns, each declared that he was in favor of separation from the Union if the federal government did not guarantee protection of slavery everywhere.⁹

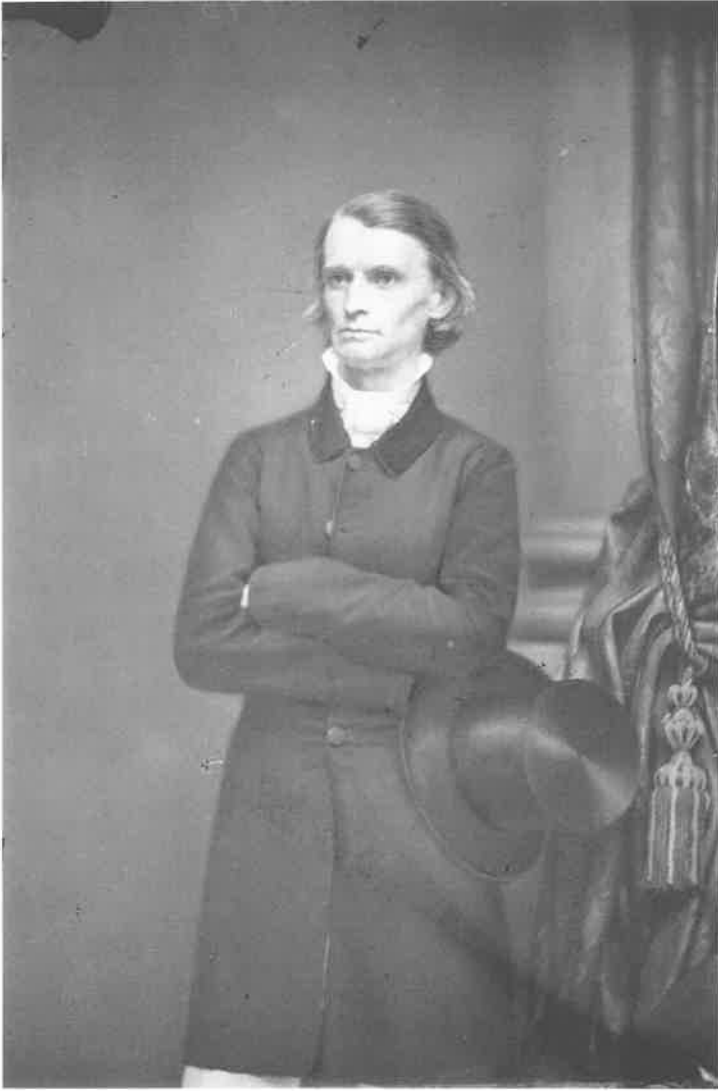
Virginia-Promoted Compromise

The General Assembly passed a Joint Resolution on 19 January 1861, assigning former President John Tyler to serve as a commissioner to the President of the United States and appointing Judge John Robertson as a commissioner to the state of South Carolina to resolve differences. The resolution proposed a Constitutional amendment guaranteeing states of the Southern Confederacy that the U.S. federal government would not interfere with slavery below Virginia’s border with North Carolina. In so doing, Virginia conceded that slavery could be phased out within the Commonwealth.¹⁰

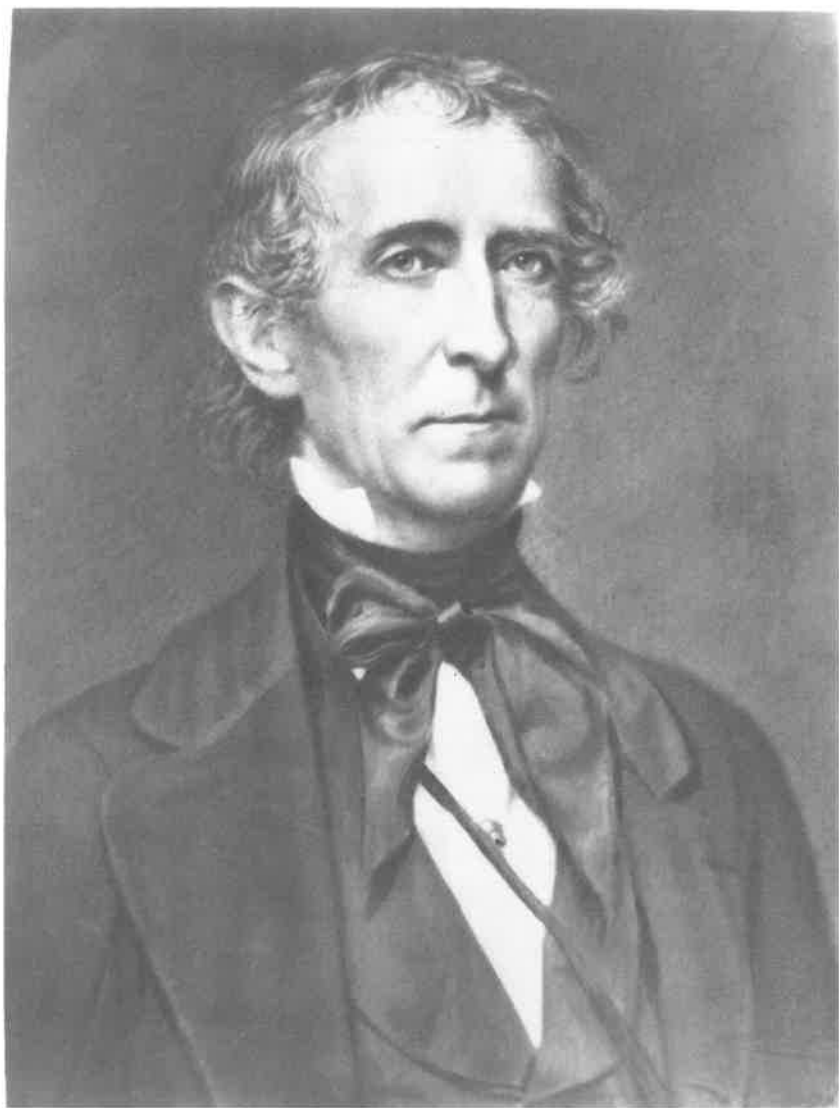
Two important events occurred on 4 February: election of delegates to the Secession Convention and peace negotiations with the U.S. federal government and the state of South Carolina. It was observed that, “The thought of leaving a Union in which Virginia had played such a conspicuous and glorious part was almost unbearable, but the idea of turning their arms against their sister states of the South was altogether unthinkable.”¹¹ The election of delegates showed no mandate for secession.

Such sentiment was evident in the outcome of the delegate races in which less than 20 percent of those elected were avowed secessionists. Among the delegates were former President John Tyler and former Governor Henry Wise. Virginia voters elected 30 secessionist delegates, 30 unionists, and 92 moderates.¹²

In Fairfax County, William Dulany¹³ ran on a unionist platform against Alfred Moss, the secessionist. Dulany was the long-serving Commonwealth’s Attorney. Moss was the grandson of Richard Ratcliffe,



Former Virginia governor Henry A. Wise, ca. 1860-1870.
LC-DIG-cwpb-06502, Library of Congress, Washington, DC



President John Tyler, ca. 1860-1865.

LC-USZ62-13010, Library of Congress, Washington, DC

the founder of what would become the City of Fairfax, and had been the Clerk of Court since 1852. The 4 February vote went for the unionist candidate—836 to 628 votes (or, 57 percent versus 43 percent of 1,464 votes). But by a vote of 856 to 524 (or, 62 percent versus 38 percent of 1,380 votes) those same voters favored a statewide referendum to ratify the decision on secession.¹⁴

The Secession Convention, officially known as the Virginia Convention, opened on 13 February 1861, in the House of Delegates. It adjourned to Mechanics Hall at the foot of Capitol Square in Richmond the next day and remained there until 8 April, when it returned to the House of Delegates.¹⁵ The word “coercion” appears in convention proceedings almost as often as “secession.” Virginians adhered strongly to a tradition of state sovereignty. They adamantly refused to accept the idea that federal authorities could employ force to override the liberties of a state.¹⁶

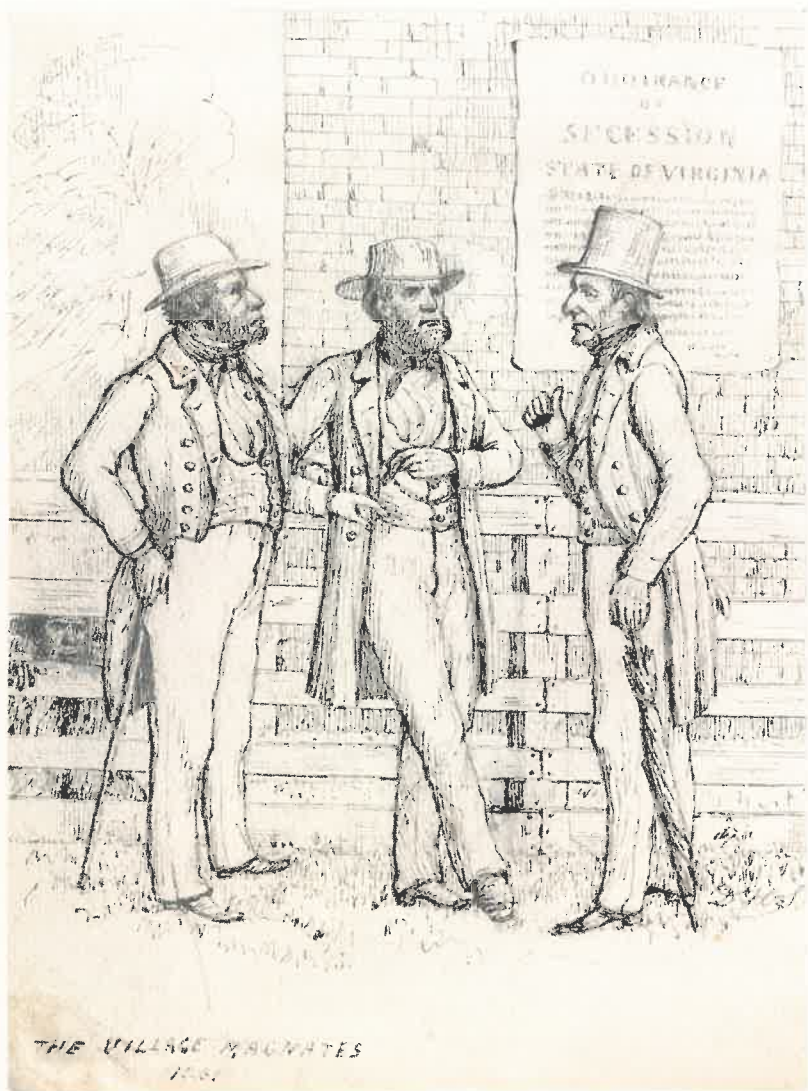
In Washington, DC, 131 delegates from 21 of the 34 states then composing the United States attended the Washington Peace Conference. Former President Tyler chaired the meeting at the Willard Hotel. After three weeks, the conference adjourned in failure on 27 February 1861. Secessionists argued that Virginia had made a supreme effort to restore the Union, but Northern abolitionists had wrecked it.¹⁷

Many people considered Lincoln’s 4 March inaugural address combative. According to *The Diary of a Public Man*:¹⁸

Mr. Lincoln raised his voice and distinctly emphasized the declaration that he must take, hold, possess, and occupy the property and places [in the South] belonging to the United States. This was unmistakable, and he paused for a moment after closing the sentence as if to allow it to be fully taken in and comprehended by his audience.¹⁹

Moderates attending the Secession Convention sought an alternative to secession. On 5 March, delegates James H. Cox and William L. Goggin introduced resolutions calling for a conference of the eight border states. The dual purpose was to check any coercive move by Lincoln and to unite the border states for secession, if necessary.²⁰

In mid-March, U.S. Secretary of State William H. Seward assured a prominent Virginia unionist that Fort Sumter would be evacuated.²¹



*An 1861 sketch titled “The Village Magnates” by David Hunter Strother.
Pierre Morand Memorial, Special Collections, Library of Virginia, Richmond, VA*

Seward “promoted the idea of voluntary reconstruction ... [and] encouraged Lincoln to negotiate with Virginia unionists to exchange the fort for Virginia’s continued loyalty, and provided assurances to the Confederate commissioners via intermediaries [Supreme Court Justice John A. Campbell] that Sumter would, in fact, be abandoned.”²²

On 4 April, secessionist delegate Lewis Harvie introduced a motion calling for the secession of Virginia. After weeks of speeches and voting on related issues, the convention took its first vote on secession, rejecting it 45 to 88.²³

William Preston, a leading moderate, proposed sending a three-member delegation to “respectfully ask” President Lincoln to “communicate to this Convention the policy which the authorities of the Federal Government intend to pursue in regard to Confederate States.”²⁴ The 8 April *Richmond Enquirer* repeated a rumor that Lincoln was preparing to reinforce Fort Sumter. Despite bitter unionist opposition, Preston’s motion passed 63 to 57. Secessionist George Wythe Randolph of Richmond and unionist A.H.H. Stuart of Staunton accompanied Preston to the White House. Flooding kept them from seeing Lincoln until 13 April. Lincoln read them a prepared statement reiterating his inaugural address’ points that the forts and arsenals in the South were federal property, and he said, “If ... an unprovoked assault has been made upon Fort Sumter, I shall hold myself at liberty to re-possess, if I can, like places which have been seized.”²⁵

On 15 April, Lincoln called for 75,000 militiamen for three months’ service to invade the Confederacy. The following are the relevant portions of his proclamation:

Whereas, The laws of the United States have been for some time past and now are opposed, and the execution thereof obstructed, in the States of South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas, by combinations too powerful to be suppressed by the ordinary course of judicial proceedings, or by the powers vested in the Marshals by law.

Now, therefore, I, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, President of the United States, in virtue of the power in me vested by the Constitution and the laws, have thought fit to call forth, and

hereby do call forth, the Militia of the several States of the Union, to the aggregate number of 75,000, in order to suppress said combinations, and to cause the laws to be duly executed. The details for this object will be immediately communicated to the State authorities through the War Department.

I appeal to all loyal citizens to favor, facilitate, and aid this effort to maintain the honor, the integrity, and the existence of our National Union and the perpetuity of popular government, and to redress wrongs already long enough endured.

I deem it proper to say that the first service assigned to the force hereby called forth will probably be to repossess the forts, places, and property which have been seized from the Union, and, in every event, the utmost care will be observed, consistently with the objects aforesaid, to avoid any devastation, any destruction of, or interference with property, or any disturbance of peaceful citizens in any part of the country; and I hereby command the persons composing the combinations aforesaid to disperse and retire peaceably to their respective abodes within twenty days from this date.

Deeming that the present condition of public affairs presents an extraordinary occasion, I do, hereby, in virtue of the power in me vested by the Constitution, convene both Houses of Congress. The Senators and Representatives are therefore summoned to assemble at their respective chambers at twelve o'clock, noon, on Thursday, the fourth day of July next, then and there to consider and determine such measures as, in their wisdom, the public safety and interest may seem to demand.²⁶

Convention president John Janney, a Loudoun County unionist, asserted he would have considered the call for troops "a forgery but Abe Lincoln is fool or knave enough to commit any absurdity or folly."²⁷ In Richmond, Confederate flags were flown everywhere. Compromise was not to be, as "the president's decision to use force doomed whatever chance there was of Virginia remaining in the Union."²⁸

My dear Sue,

High water is still in the way & therefore I concluded to add another paragraph as Simon Roterbough says. We have been getting along finely today and are nearly through with our Reports & amendments to the Constitution. But we have terrible excitement here. The South Carolinians have commenced cannonading fort Sumpter (sic) to drive the United States troops out of it, so the war in that part of the south is actually begun & God knows when or where it will end. But we can suffer nothing from it if we can keep Virginia in the Union. But all day the Secessionists have been wild & devilish with excitement and being informed this evening by telegraph that the fort had surrendered to the Carolinians they fired one hundred cannon here on the Capital square in honor of the event, while thousands of people were standing around cheering & bands of music playing. They marched to Governor Letchers & with music & secession flags & wild shouts called the Governor out & demanded a speech. He spoke but a few minutes & told them that he would stand by Virginia at all hazard. This they did not like & marching back to the Capital called out secession speakers who addressed them in a very excited & exciting manner & threatened to take Virginia out of the Union by Revolution if the convention did not pass an ordinance of secession. They raised a secession flag on the Capital & swore that it should never be taken down, but after night Governor Letcher ordered the public Guard to take it down & they did so. You never saw or dreamed of such excitement before. You would have thought that there were no Union men in the City. late in the evening I went over to Letcher's where I found many of the Union men of the Convention & after tea we (the union members) had a meeting at the Capital & the Governor went over with us & we had quite a pleasant time of it. The secessionists having gone off in a torch light procession & kept the City in an uproar until 11 O'clock at night.

Affectionately yours
G.W. Berlin

April 13th. 1861

[Richmond, Virginia]

My Dear Sue,

High water is still in the way & therefore I concluded to add another paragraph as Simon Roterbough says. We have been getting along finely today and are nearly through with our Reports & amendments to the Constitution. But we have terrible excitement here. The South Carolinians have commenced cannonading fort Sumpter (sic) to drive the United States troops out of it, so the war in that part of the south is actually begun & God knows when or where it will end. But we can suffer nothing from it if we can keep Virginia in the Union. But all day the Secessionists have been wild & devilish with excitement and being informed this evening by telegraph that the fort had surrendered to the Carolinians they fired one hundred cannon here on the Capital square in honor of the event, while thousands of people were standing around cheering & bands of music playing. They marched to Governor Letchers & with music & secession flags & wild shouts called the Governor out & demanded a speech. He spoke but a few minutes & told them that he would stand by Virginia at all hazard. This they did not like & marching back to the Capital called out secession speakers who addressed them in a very excited & exciting manner & threatened to take Virginia out of the Union by Revolution if the convention did not pass an ordinance of secession. They raised a secession flag on the Capital & swore that it should never be taken down, but after night Governor Letcher ordered the public Guard to take it down & they did so. You never saw or dreamed of such excitement before. You would have thought that there were no Union men in the City. late in the evening I went over to Letcher's where I found many of the Union men of the Convention & after tea we (the union members) had a meeting at the Capital & the Governor went over with us & we had quite a pleasant time of it. The secessionists having gone off in a torch light procession & kept the City in an uproar until 11 O'clock at night.

Affectionately yours

G.W. Berlin

Berlin, Martz Papers, Acc. 36271, Library of Virginia, Richmond, VA

Hon. Sir:

Our Community, has
any to fight our southern
friends, neighbors, fathers
will notify you that
we are worthy to be

Christiansburg [Virginia]

April 15th 1861.

Hon. Sir [Governor John Letcher]:

Our Community, has been thrown into the most intense excitement by the news here, that Lincoln has made a requisition upon Va. for Nine Thousand soldiers, to fight our southern brethren.

Virginians can never fight our southern brethren, and whilst we will do all in our power to render to you our support and to defend you and your family from assaults. Please do not ask us to Join a northern army to fight our southern friends, neighbors, fathers & brothers. It will not it shall not be so. I hold my self in readiness dear governor to march my men to your support and to your defence, but not to support Lincoln nor to his defence.

When ever you want me for the purposes above indicated—Or whenever you wish my services in upholding the honor of our proud old mother let me hear from your end, I think, I mistake not when I assure you, that we of the south west will notify you that we are worthy to be numbered among the gallant Sons of old Virginia.

What will be the end of the foolish course persued by Lincoln?

Yr truly your friend

Jas C Taylor

Executive Papers of Governor John Letcher, Acc. 36787, State Government Records Collection, RG3, Library of Virginia, Richmond, VA

On 16 April, the convention rejected all unionist motions aimed at compromise. Moderate Preston introduced a formal ordinance of secession that began as follows:

The people of Virginia, in their ratification of the constitution . . . having declared that the powers granted under the said constitution were derived from the people of the United States, and might be resumed whenever the same should be perverted to their injury and oppression; and the Federal Government having perverted said power . . . Now, therefore, we the people of Virginia do declare that the ordinance. . . whereby the constitution of the United States of America was ratified . . . is hereby dissolved.²⁹

At that point, the Convention received the official request from the federal War Department for Virginia to supply 2,340 men to the Union Army. The convention's delegates chose to adjourn for the day.³⁰

Ordinance of Secession

What became a ten-and-a-half-hour session for the convention opened on 17 April with the reading of the moderate Letcher's reply to Lincoln, which stated in part:

You have chosen to inaugurate civil war, and, having done so, we will meet it in a spirit as determined as the administration has exhibited towards the South.³¹

Convention president Janney cautioned delegates that, "The Confederate army never will and never can march to our assistance. They will use all their means and power to protect themselves at home."³² He asked what the Commonwealth could do for northern Virginia to:

Defend our people who live upon the [Northern] frontier, who are exposed to the assaults of the enemy, and upon whom they will come thick and heavy?³³

The delegates voted 88 to 55 for secession. However, changes in votes—plus absentee ballots—made the final tally 103 to 46 for

secession.³⁴ Janney was among the unionists who changed his vote to endorse secession. Fairfax County's delegate, William Dulany, voted against secession, as did the delegates from Alexandria and Loudoun.³⁵ The Prince William County delegate supported secession. The penultimate paragraph of the ordinance directed the referendum take place on 23 May, two days before the deadline in Lincoln's proclamation calling for 75,000 militiamen.

On 23 April, former U.S. Army colonel Robert E. Lee came before the convention to accept command of all Virginia military forces.³⁶ The enduring decision of the convention was to pass an ordinance establishing the state flag of Virginia. Before secession, like many states, Virginia had no official flag.³⁷

Reaction of the Confederate Government

In the Confederate capital at Montgomery, Alabama, word of Virginia's secession created almost as great an outpouring of enthusiasm as the fall of Fort Sumter. A telegram bearing the news arrived late on 17 April 1861, while CSA President Jefferson Davis was meeting with CSA Vice President Alexander Stephens. In a subsequent letter, Davis wrote, "The usually pessimistic vice president predicted privately that it meant the end of the war even before it began."³⁸

Governor Letcher wanted to start negotiations for an alliance with the Confederacy as an interim measure pending the formal ratification of the Confederate Constitution, which was necessary for Virginia to apply for statehood. Letcher's concerns were valid. On 20 April, the USS *Pawnee* conveyed a regiment of Massachusetts soldiers from Fortress Monroe to Gosport Naval Shipyard in Portsmouth, Virginia, which they set ablaze. Virginia troops took possession of Gosport the following day.³⁹

Davis dispatched Stephens to Virginia as head of a commission to negotiate with Letcher, the legislature, and the convention. Stephens departed Montgomery on the night train on 18 April. He arrived in Richmond on 22 April and met immediately with Letcher.⁴⁰ On 23 April, he urged a closed session of the Secession Convention to adopt a treaty with the Confederacy, ratify the Confederate Constitution, and then apply for statehood.

TO ARMS!

To Arms! To Arms!

Defend your Homes and Firesides.

THREE HUNDRED ABLE-BODIED YOUNG MEN are wanted to meet in LEXINGTON, on SATURDAY, APRIL 20th, 1861, to form three Companies of VOLUNTEERS for the defence of Virginia against the invasion threatened by her Northern foes. Your State is in danger. Rally to her Standard.

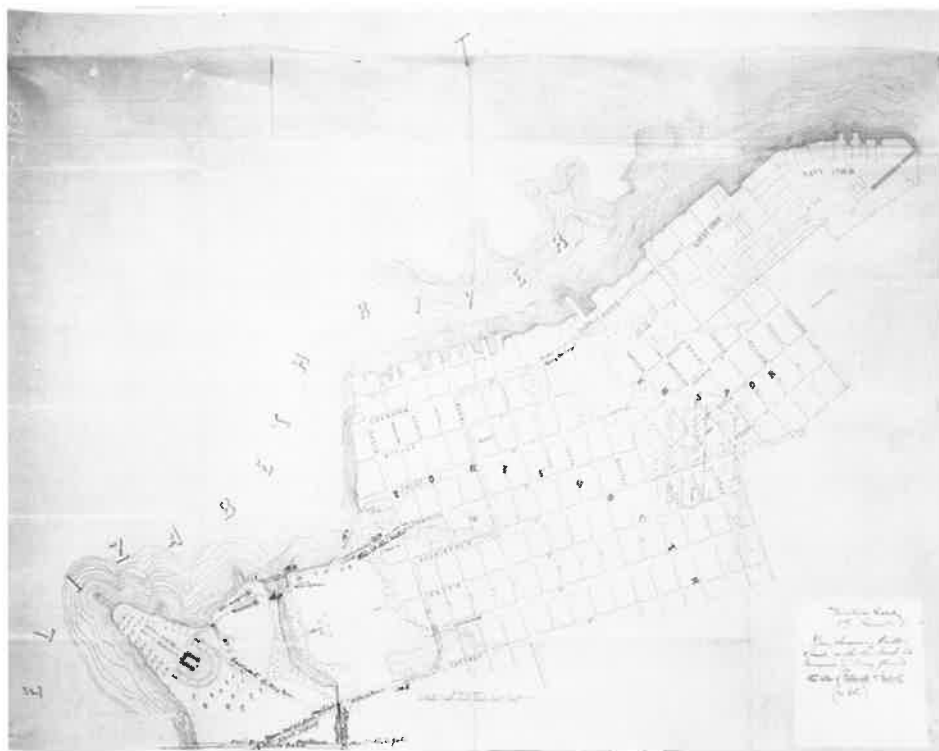
Lexington, April 17, 1861.

A broadside printed in 1861.

Broadside 1861 .T62 FF, Special Collections, Library of Virginia, Richmond, VA



USS Pawnee's quarterdeck and starboard battery, ca. 1860.
CD-DIG-cwpb-02970, Library of Congress, Washington, DC



Map of Portsmouth and Gosport showing a plan of the hospital complex grounds, ca. 1854.
HABS VA-1287, Library of Congress, Washington, DC

Stephens concluded his remarks by saying the following:

The enemy is now on your border—almost at your door—he must be met. While I have no authority to speak on that subject, I feel at perfect liberty to say, that it is quite within the range of probability that, if such an alliance is made as seems to me ought to be made, the seat of our government will with a few weeks, be moved to this place.⁴¹

The Confederate Congress approved the treaty with Virginia on 6 May.⁴² The next day, it admitted Virginia to the Confederacy. However, until the voters were heard from on 23 May, both sides knew Virginia was still in the Union.

Fairfax County Meeting

On 27 April, pro-secessionists met at Fairfax Court House. They formed a committee of eight prominent men—Craven Ashford, W.W. Ball, Richard H. Cockerill, Dr. C.W. Mackall, Alfred Moss, John Powell, S.T. Stuart, and Henry W. Thomas⁴³—who unanimously agreed on twelve resolutions for the common defense of the county:

Resolution 1 declared that fraternal relations between slave and nonslave states had ceased.

Resolution 2 hoped for peaceful separation but pledged to defend Virginia.

Resolution 3 formed a Central Home Guard that was to be commanded by Alfred Moss.

Resolution 4 guaranteed to defend Northerners residing in the county and their property.

Resolution 5 reminded loyal citizens they were duty bound to stand by Virginia and render service as required.

Resolution 6 declared allegiance to Virginia superseded political opinion and place of birth.

Resolution 7 declared that all actions must respect the lawful rights of others.

Resolution 8 created a Committee of Safety to investigate intimidation.

Resolution 9 empowered the Committee of Safety to oversee the peaceable removal from the county of any person it found to be disloyal to the Commonwealth.

Resolution 10 said rather than take action against those “regard[ed] as obnoxious,” contact the Committee of Safety, who would ensure “ample justice and protection . . . in all such cases.”

Resolution 11 requested county court to levy a tax to provide for military defense of the county and to increase the number of Special Police to at least 100.

Resolution 12 requested the Board of Overseers of the Poor to levy a tax to provide for the needy.⁴⁴

On 20 May, the unionist delegate William Dulany urged his fellow Fairfax County citizens to support secession in view of the actions of the federal government. He reminded them that he had voted against secession at the convention in April, but he now opposed any division among Virginians. He said the course of the Lincoln “administration made it the imperative duty of every loyal son of Virginia to strike for her independence.”⁴⁵

Method of Voting

Only white males over age 21 could vote in the United States. Per Virginia’s 1851 Constitution:

Every white male citizen of the commonwealth, of the age of twenty-one years, who has been a resident of the state for two years, and of the county, city, or town where he offers to vote for twelve months next preceding an election, and no other person, shall be qualified to vote for members of the general assembly, and all officers elective by the people: but no person in the military, naval, or marine service of the United States shall be deemed a resident of this state, by reason of being stationed therein. And no person shall have the right to vote, who is of unsound mind, or a pauper, or a non-commissioned officer, soldier, seaman, or marine in the service of the United

States, or who has been convicted of bribery in an election, or of any infamous offence.⁴⁶

The two-year and one-year residency requirements would have excluded some recent Northern immigrants to the Commonwealth.

On election day, each male voter openly declared his vote to the polling officials who recorded it, which is a method that may seem unusual nowadays but had been the norm since colonial times in Virginia.⁴⁷ (Schools, clubs, business meetings, and legislative and judicial bodies still vote openly today.) The Australian (or secret ballot) was not introduced into U.S. elections until about 1890.⁴⁸ The secession vote's handwritten records on blue paper for each precinct and for the Fairfax Cavalry were found in the Fairfax County Courthouse in the 1950s.⁴⁹

Statewide Referendum of 23 May 1861

The statewide referendum approved secession overwhelmingly, 128,884 to 32,134. On 24 June, Governor Letcher approved the final referendum tally and his proclamation (co-signed by Secretary of the Commonwealth George Munford) appeared in the 25 June 1861, *Richmond Enquirer*. One often encounters a vote total of 125,950 to 20,373. This is based on actual vote totals received in Richmond. However, in his proclamation, Letcher stated:

And to the end that the entire vote of the State, as far as it can be ascertained, may be known to the people, I have estimated the vote of the Counties from which returns have not been received, taking the same from local papers [and] from sources believed to be correct, or nearly so, [and] appended it to this proclamation.⁵⁰

This official estimate added 2,934 votes for secession and 11,761 votes to reject secession. In Fairfax County, the tally was 945 to 289, meaning more than 76 percent of voters favored secession.

It should be noted that many historians cite the official voting ledgers and see 151 votes for the ordinance of secession at Fairfax Court House. However, the vote was really 152. A closer look at the ledgers reveals that two voters were incorrectly numbered #138 for secession, meaning the vote for ratification was undercounted by one.

For Sangster's Station precinct, the ledgers show two voters were incorrectly numbered #65 for secession, meaning the vote for ratification was undercounted by one. In Lewinsville precinct, the ledgers show two voters were incorrectly numbered #16 and #17 for secession, meaning the vote for ratification was undercounted by two. Offsetting those, current-day Civil War historian Ed Wenzel has observed that in Falls Church there was no voter #23—meaning the vote for ratification was over counted by one. The net result was 945 votes for ratification.

In four precincts, the vote for secession was unanimous. Elsewhere, there was only one vote against in Arundell's Tavern precinct,⁵¹ two against in Pulman's precinct,⁵² three against in Sangster's Station, four against in Dranesville Tavern precinct,⁵³ and eight against in Fairfax Court House. Falls Church voted for secession 44 to 26. Three of the fourteen Fairfax precincts opposed secession: Accotink, 19 to 76;⁵⁴ Lewinsville, 37 to 86; and Lydecker's, 44 to 78.⁵⁵

Impact of New Arrivals in Fairfax County

Many writers have attributed the bulk of the Fairfax no vote to Quakers and Northerners. The influx of foreigners and New Yorkers into Fairfax County is overrated by some authors who imagine it was large enough to have caused Fairfax to reject secession. As James Stirewalt wrote in 1969:

By 1860, almost all of the Piedmont and Tidewater had become a political, economic, and social unit. . . . The proximity of Washington, Baltimore, and Philadelphia which provided markets for northern Virginia truck gardens probably reduced antipathy toward the North to some degree in that area. Also, some foreign and Northern immigration had occurred in the area, particularly into Fairfax County. However, these Northern influences were small. Northern Virginians looked much more to Richmond than to Washington for leadership. In the three elections held between November 1860 and May 1861, Northern Virginia always voted with the state majority or plurality.⁵⁶

At Accotink, Quakers voting against secession may have been driven by their religion's pacifism and their desire to prevent war, rather

than opposition to secession.⁵⁷ Another explanation for their voting against secession was that they tended to support the status quo. A 2010 book on Tories in the American Revolutionary War notes Quakers “felt more comfortable under British rule.”⁵⁸ Southerners viewed the struggle with the North as the Southern War for Independence and saw themselves reprising the rôle of the American revolutionaries, whom the British called “rebels”—a term used by the North to describe Confederates.

For a variety of reasons, some who voted for unionist delegates on 4 February ultimately supported secession on 23 May. After the Convention’s delegates voted for secession, the unionist northern Virginia newspapers “launched bitter invective against Lincoln and the rest of the ‘madmen at the Federal Capital’ and pleaded desperately for a peaceful separation.”⁵⁹

The increasingly belligerent attitude of the Lincoln Administration caused some Virginia unionists to favor secession.⁶⁰ In a 22 January 1860, letter to Fauquier County voters, unionist John Quincy Marr wrote of his love for the Union, but concluded with the following:

In the event of continued disposition to aggress, and an unyielding spirit on the par of Northern fanaticism, then so to act as best to maintain the honor and rights of the State whose interests and whose welfare it is our duty to cherish and defend as long as life itself shall last.⁶¹

Adhering to his principles, Marr became the first Confederate officer killed in the Civil War.⁶²

Campaigning for a seat in the state legislature, moderate Thomas of Fairfax Court House said he still favored the Union, but on the question of North versus South he was with the South.⁶³ Other unionists hoped a massive vote for secession would convince the Lincoln Administration to negotiate, thereby averting war. According to May 1861 letters from unionists in Staunton and Winchester, some formerly staunch union men campaigned for ratification of the Ordinance of Secession—hoping to check the march to war in the North by presenting a united Dixie.⁶⁴

Finally, the number of non-native Virginians in Fairfax was insufficient to change the outcome of the county’s referendum vote.

According to the 1850 census, one-third of the adult white males in Fairfax were immigrants from England, Ireland, the West Indies, and states of the German Confederation,⁶⁵ or they hailed from the North.⁶⁶ Although male foreigners were counted in the census, they could not vote unless they were naturalized and met Virginia's residence requirements. Historians can only guess at how many would have been qualified to vote.

About 200 families who had moved south from Northern states lived in Fairfax County in 1847.⁶⁷ That translates to at least 167 votes if all the fathers were alive. In some cases, an adult son might have been old enough to vote. Even if all Northern transplants voted to reject the ordinance, then 89 Southerners voted for rejection out of 289. But at least one New Yorker, Albert Orcutt, voted for secession.⁶⁸ Other evidence indicates that the number of Northerners moving into all of Virginia was only a "trickle" around 1850.⁶⁹ And this influx ceased due to "increasing sectional tensions in the 1850s."⁷⁰

The Vote of the Fairfax Cavalry

It is unclear where the Fairfax Cavalry voted. The commissioners at West End precinct indicated 27 votes for the ordinance and 1 vote against "have been received under protest because of having voting [*sic*] on the ordinance of secession in Alexandria, Va. May 21st as a company."⁷¹ If the Fairfax Cavalry votes were invalid, then the Fairfax County vote would then be 918 to 288, and the state vote would have to be adjusted accordingly.

Conclusion

After the secession of the Lower South, Virginia proved herself a model of restraint and showed why she is the mother of statesmen. Her legislature created the Secession Convention to which mostly moderates were elected. Northern Virginia's delegates were typically not secessionists. The convention initially opposed secession, but when asked to not only be a highway to invade her sister states to the south but also contribute more than 2,000 men to the effort, she declined on principle and the convention approved secession.

Unlike other seceding states, the voters of the Commonwealth and Fairfax County overwhelmingly approved secession through a referendum. Many of those voting for secession on 23 May 1861, had been pro-union, but as events unfolded after Lincoln's inauguration, they concluded the North was determined to use force to compel the South to yield. The 1863 admission of West Virginia to the Union in violation of the constitutional process casts doubts on the North's objections to secession.

The 23 May vote for secession was made clearly on principle because Fairfax County residents knew neither their state nor the Confederacy could save them from federal occupation, which began twenty-seven days before the governor released the official vote count on 25 June. Some voted for secession because they believed it was right; others hoped that adding the largest state east of the Mississippi to the Confederacy would avert war and put the South in a position of greater strength from which to bargain with the North and perhaps resolve the secession issue.

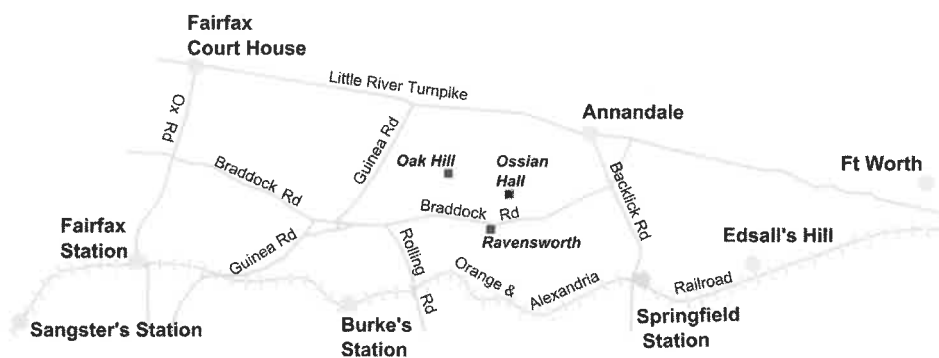
Endnotes

- 1 Lewis Paul Todd and Merle Curti, *Rise of the American Nation*, 3rd ed. (New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1972), 368.
- 2 James N. Stirewalt, "Secessionist Sentiment in Northern Virginia," in *Yearbook: The Historical Society of Fairfax County, Virginia*, Vol. 10 (Fairfax, VA: Historical Society of Fairfax County, 1969), 31.
- 3 *Ibid.*, 32.
- 4 *Ibid.*
- 5 James I. Robertson Jr., "The Virginia State Convention of 1861," in *Virginia at War, 1861*, ed. William C. Davis and James I. Robertson Jr. (Louisville, KY: University Press of Kentucky, 2005), 2.
- 6 *Alexandria Gazette & Virginia Advertiser*, 22 November 1860; *Alexandria Gazette & Virginia Advertiser*, 4 December 1860.
- 7 Stirewalt, 32.
- 8 *Ibid.*, 3.
- 9 *Ibid.*, 3–4.
- 10 U.S. War Department, *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, Series IV, Vol. 1 (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1900), 90–91.
- 11 Robertson, 4.
- 12 *Ibid.*
- 13 Sometimes his name was spelled Dulaney.

- 14 Charles V. Mauro, *Civil War in Fairfax County* (Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2006), 20.
- 15 "Virginia Secession Convention," in Library of Virginia digitized *Proceedings of the Convention of Virginia, 1861*, accessed 12 February 2011 at University of Richmond, VA, <http://collections.richmond.edu/secession/documents/index.html?id=pb.1.27>.
- 16 Robertson, 6.
- 17 Ibid., 7–8.
- 18 Daniel W. Crofts, professor of history at The College of New Jersey, identified the author as William Henry Hurlbert (1827–1895), who was a prominent New York City journalist and South Carolinian. Crofts wrote, "*The Diary [of a Public Man]* also reflected Hurlbert's distinctive outlook, which was neither Northern nor Southern. ... He never thought the war should have been fought, and he never accepted the idea that it could be justified by its outcome. Hurlbert thereby swam against the dominant tide of postwar Northern public opinion." <http://hnn.us/articles/126209.html>.
- 19 Robertson, 8.
- 20 Ibid., 9.
- 21 Crofts.
- 22 Richard B. Latner, "Commentary: Seward's Advice," *Crises at Fort Sumter*, Tulane University. Accessed August 21, 2010, www.tulane.edu/~sumter/InitialProb/ISewardAdviceComm.html. Accessed 21 August 2010.
- 23 Robertson, 14.
- 24 John T. Harris, *Journal of the Acts and Proceedings of a General Convention of the State of Virginia, Assembled at Richmond, on Wednesday, the Thirteenth Day of February, Eighteen Hundred and Sixty-One* (Richmond, VA: W.M. Elliot, 1861), 137.
- 25 Robertson, 14–15.
- 26 "A Proclamation," *Harper's Weekly*, Vol. 226, 27 April 1861, 258.
- 27 Robertson, 16.
- 28 Michael Mahon, "The Shenandoah Valley of Virginia," in *Virginia at War, 1861*, ed. William C. Davis and James I. Robertson Jr. (Louisville, KY: University Press of Kentucky, 2005), 134.
- 29 Robertson, 17.
- 30 Ibid.
- 31 Edward McPherson, *A Political History of the United States of America During the Great Rebellion* (Washington, DC: James J. Chapman, 1882), 114.
- 32 Robertson, 18.
- 33 Ibid.
- 34 Ibid.
- 35 "Record of the Vote in the Virginia Convention of the Ordinance of Secession, April 17, 1861," Paul Mellon bequest, acc. 11637, small special collections, University of Virginia, www.virginiamemory.com/online_classroom/union_or_

- secession/doc/secession_rollcall. Accessed 2014.
- 36 Robertson, 19.
- 37 Karl Reiner, *Remembering Fairfax County Virginia* (Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2006), 115.
- 38 William C. Davis, "Richmond Becomes the Capital" in *Virginia at War, 1861*, ed. William C. Davis and James I. Robertson Jr. (Louisville, KY: University Press of Kentucky, 2005), 116.
- 39 John M. Coski, "A Navy Department, Hitherto Unknown in Our State Organization" in *Virginia at War, 1861*, ed. William C. Davis and James I. Robertson Jr. (Louisville, KY: University Press of Kentucky, 2005), 66.
- 40 Ibid., 117.
- 41 Ibid.
- 42 Ibid., 122.
- 43 Edward C. Trexler Jr., *Civil War: Fairfax Court House* (Fairfax, VA: James River Valley Publishing, 2005), 10.
- 44 Brian A. Conley, *Fractured Land: Fairfax County's Role in the Vote for Secession, May 23, 1861* (Fairfax, VA: Fairfax County Public Library, 2001), 28–29.
- 45 "Public Meeting in Fairfax," *Alexandria Gazette & Virginia Advertiser*, 22 May 1861, 2.
- 46 John Bouvier, "A Law Dictionary, Adapted to the Constitution and Laws of the United States," *The Free Dictionary*, published 1856, accessed 12 December 2010, <http://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/Commonwealth+of+Virginia>.
- 47 Conley, 7.
- 48 Todd and Curti, 532.
- 49 Thomas P. Chapman Jr., "The Secession Election in Fairfax County—May 23, 1861," *Yearbook: The Historical Society of Fairfax County, Virginia*, Vol. 4 (Fairfax, VA: Historical Society of Fairfax County, 1955), 49.
- 50 "By the Governor of Virginia, A Proclamation," *Richmond Enquirer*, 58: 16.
- 51 Arundell's Tavern precinct was situated on the northwest corner of the intersection of present-day Burke Lake Road and Route 123.
- 52 Pulman's precinct was the residence of Thomas Pulman and is currently a private residence in Franconia.
- 53 Dranesville Tavern precinct is a Fairfax County historic property located at 11919 Leesburg Pike in Herndon.
- 54 Accotink precinct was at the intersection of present-day Accotink Creek and Route 1.
- 55 Lydecker's precinct is now known as the Freeman Store and is located on Church Street in Vienna.
- 56 Stirewalt, 30–31.
- 57 Chapman, 50.
- 58 Joseph C. Goulden notes this in "Book Review: When Loyalists Shunned Rebels," *Washington Times*, 7 December 2010. In this article, he reviews Thomas B. Allen, *Tories: Fighting for the King in America's First Civil War* (New York: Harper, 2011).
- 59 Stirewalt, 40.

- 60 Mahon, "The Shenandoah Valley of Virginia," 134; "Winchester Last Monday," *Alexandria Gazette & Virginia Advertiser*, 7 May 1861.
- 61 "Letter of John Q. Marr," *Alexandria Gazette & Virginia Advertiser*, 26 January 1861.
- 62 A monument in front of Fairfax Courthouse commemorates Marr's 1 June 1861 death nearby. He was the captain of the Warrenton Rifles when Federal cavalry launched a pre-dawn raid.
- 63 Stirewalt, 40.
- 64 Henry T. Shanks, *The Secession Movement in Virginia, 1847–1861* (Richmond, VA: Garrett & Massie, 1934), 212.
- 65 The German Empire (Germany) was not proclaimed until 18 January 1871. Before that time, what would become Germany was a collection of duchies and kingdoms.
- 66 Nan Netherton, Donald Sweig, Janice Artemel, Patricia Hickim, and Patrick Reed, *Fairfax County, Virginia: A History* (Fairfax, VA: Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, 1978), 259.
- 67 Ibid.
- 68 Conley, 42.
- 69 Richard H. Abbott, "Yankee Farmers in Northern Virginia," in *Yearbook: The Historical Society of Fairfax County, Virginia*, Vol. 11 (Fairfax, VA: Historical Society of Fairfax County, 1971), 121.
- 70 Abbott, 119.
- 71 Fairfax County Circuit Court Archives, Fairfax, VA, Ordinance of Secession, Polls Taken from Various Fairfax County Polling Places, 23 May 1861.



Pvt. Edward S.E. Newberry, regimental scout of the 3rd New Jersey, operated in this area, and the Loudoun County Scouts patrolled the territory between the railroad and Braddock Road.

"A Look Back at Braddock District," www.braddockheritage.org

The Bog Wallow Ambuscade

By Michael S. Mitchell

During the early days of the Civil War, the Old Braddock Road was a narrow, dusty, dirt road that traversed a heavily wooded, undeveloped countryside, following the contours of the land and passing just a few isolated homes. Northern newspapers described the densely forested area from Springfield to Fairfax Court House between the Orange and Alexandria Rail Road (O&A) and Little River Turnpike as a “labyrinth” into which the Confederates sought to lure the Union armies for destruction.¹ In the autumn of 1861, after the Rebels had withdrawn their pickets from Bailey’s Crossroads and Edsall’s Hill, this region had become a neutral ground that was regularly patrolled by scouting and skirmish parties of both sides.

On the night of 4 December 1861, a detachment of the 3rd New Jersey Infantry Regiment, commanded by Col. George W. Taylor and piloted by one of his principal scouts, Pvt. Edward S.E. Newberry, traveled cautiously west toward the “forks of the Braddock Road,” where they intended to ambush a band of Confederate cavalry. The event that unfolded is recorded as a skirmish at Burke’s Station, but to the Georgia cavalymen who came under fire for the first time, the brief fight was long remembered as “The Bog Wallow Ambuscade.”²

Leading Up to the Ambuscade

After the First Battle of Manassas/Bull Run, as it became increasingly apparent that neither army would organize a major offensive until spring, Union and Confederate forces began to fortify their positions; construct winter quarters; and set about organizing, equipping, and training their armies.



An engraving titled "The Civil War in America: How the Outlying Sentries of the Federal Army are Killed by Secessionist Scouts."
The Illustrated London News, 13 July 1861

The 3rd Regiment of New Jersey Volunteers was encamped in and around Fort Worth, Alexandria, which they had helped construct on a hill overlooking the Little River Turnpike and the O&A. In correspondence with hometown newspapers, soldiers of the 3rd NJ described the monotonous routine of camp life, the health of their company, and their eager and anxious anticipation of having a brush with the enemy, whose breastworks at Munson's, Mason's, and Edsall's hills could be seen from the parapets of their completed fort.

At the end of September, the Rebels withdrew from those positions to consolidate their forces at Centreville and Manassas Junction. The Union pickets now established their advance picket post at Edsall's Hill, with their out-pickets standing sentinel as far away as Anna Maria Fitzhugh's home on Ravensworth plantation.³

For some time after Union troops began occupying northeastern Virginia; the two sides had been engaged in "the murderous practice" of picket-firing. One Union soldier wrote to his hometown newspaper that "it is nothing more than cold blooded murder to steal quietly up to the post of an out picket . . . and deliberately shoot down the sentry at the post."

Jacob R. Freese, editor of the *Trenton State Gazette* and judge of the Provost Court in Northern-occupied Alexandria, expressed his frustration with "this silly shooting of pickets" that "decides nothing and can be of no practical advantage to either side. . . . The object of war is to decide something, but this, as before remarked, decides nothing at all."

Confederates also decried the occurrence of similar "petty attacks" against their pickets, yet the practice continued.⁴ These barbarous and dishonorable acts had become so commonplace that Gen. George McClellan issued General Orders, Number 13, on 16 September, declaring picket firing to be "contrary to the usages of civilized warfare," and directed his men not to fire on the Rebel pickets unless it was necessary to resist an enemy advance.⁵

The pickets of the 3rd NJ, stationed along the O&A, attributed these outrages to a company of cavalry they referred to as the Loudoun County Scouts, who regularly patrolled the area between Fairfax Station and Springfield.⁶ One of the 3rd NJ regimental scouts, Pvt. Edward S.E. Newberry, began to devote time toward the gathering of intelligence regarding the Loudoun Scouts, with the hope of obtaining information



2nd Lt. Edward Stewart Elder Newberry, Trenton, New Jersey, ca. 1862.
Chris Nelson Collection, Folder RG98S-WEP 66.22, Military History
Institute, Carlisle Barracks, PA

that could lead to their capture or destruction and put an end to their attacks.⁷

A North Carolinian by birth, 22-year-old Newberry had abolitionist viewpoints that induced him to leave the South around the age of 16 to live with his mother's Northern relatives. With experience as a night patrolman in North Carolina, he was detailed as a fifer in the regiment's Fife and Drum Corps before the regiment left Camp Olden in Trenton, New Jersey. This assignment freed him from company duties and allowed him to go where and when he willed as a scout upon the regiment's arrival on the "sacred soil of Virginia."

Newberry's Northern comrades did not appreciate his personal sacrifice—that is, giving up his family and inheritance as the son of a plantation overseer in North Carolina for the life of a manual laborer in New Jersey. They called him a traitor on account of his Southern relations. He viewed the dangerous duties of a scout and spy as a chance to earn the respect of his comrades and to prove his loyalty and, possibly, as a chance to avoid their taunts.

Newberry at Oak Hill

On 5 November 1861, while still in the daylight hours, Newberry traveled with his frequent scouting companion, Cpl. Thomas P. Edwards of Co. D, to Oak Hill, the residence of David Fitzhugh, to gather information. Along the way, they were joined by a member of the 16th NY Volunteer Regiment, whose identity remains unknown to this day. In a letter written less than two weeks after the incident, Newberry claimed that Oak Hill's main house was deserted. However, one of Fitzhugh's female slaves still resided in a cabin on the property, where she was nursing her son who was dying of consumption. This woman said that a Rebel had been there in the morning and was expected to return in the evening. In Newberry's later accounts, he claimed that it was Fitzhugh, himself, who was returning that night to gather some of his belongings.

The three men decided that they would wait for the Rebel's return, in the hope of gathering valuable information. While they waited, they entered Oak Hill to take a few souvenirs. Edwards took a monogrammed tin cup, and Newberry remembers taking some pages of sheet music. They also removed a featherbed mattress and woolen blankets to the garden, where they took turns standing guard and sleeping while they



Oak Hill in the early 1900s. Built ca. 1790, the original house was two rooms wide and a single room deep, with each room flanking a central hallway.
 Courtesy of the Watts Family



Today, Oak Hill is adjacent to Wakefield Chapel Road. It is privately owned and protected by a historic easement which requires it be opened to the public once per year.
 Photograph by Gilbert Donahue

waited for the Rebel to return. Around eight o'clock, four men turned off the Braddock Road and rode up to the house, where they dismounted and went inside. Unbeknownst to the three Union soldiers, the Confederate cavalymen who had arrived at Oak Hill did not belong to the Loudoun Scouts, but were a reconnaissance party of Georgia cavalymen led by their captain, Joseph Frederick Waring.⁸

A few days before, Confederate Maj. Gen. Earl Van Dorn had approached Gen. Joseph E. Johnston with information that Union Gen. Samuel P. Heintzelman's division had moved so far in advance of the Federal lines on the road to Occoquan that he believed it could be overwhelmed by a prompt attack. Johnston stated in his memoirs that he doubted the veracity of this information, but knowing that one of the Confederacy's best scouts belonged to Van Dorn's division, he expressed the desire that Van Dorn organize a scouting expedition to determine the true value of this information.⁹

Earlier, on 30 October, following Governor John Letcher's review of Virginia's regiments and his presentation of flags to the state's regiments, Van Dorn and his staff repaired to the headquarters of Col. Charles W. Field, 6th VA Cavalry, for refreshments. There, Van Dorn discussed the situation with Field and asked him to "ascertain [whether] any considerable force of the enemy [were] so far removed from support as to prevent prompt succor." Immediately, Field sent for Capt. J. Frederick Waring of the Georgia Hussars, Co. E, and asked him if he would undertake to secure the information.

Accepting the assignment, Waring set out from camp on 5 November, with 1st Lt. David Waldhauer, Cpl. Robert C. Guerard, and Pvt. Lochlin H. Clemens. As the small scouting party rode on the Braddock Road toward the Union picket lines, they spotted turkeys roosting on the Oak Hill premises and determined to requisition a few of the fowl on their return trip. Supposedly having gone as far as Alexandria that evening, the cavalymen now returned to Oak Hill.¹⁰

Shoot Out in the Kitchen

After the Confederates unwittingly rode past the three Federals hidden in the garden and had entered the house, Newberry, Edwards, and the New Yorker quietly made their way to the house's detached kitchen, where they thought they could continue to gather information unobserved. The

more reliable accounts suggest that Waring's party exited the house after only a few minutes and mounted their horses.

Something induced Clemens to pause while riding near the kitchen. He dismounted his horse and circled around to the kitchen's front, where he cautiously approached the door with his pistol drawn. Inside, Cpl. Edwards was standing at the door, holding it slightly ajar with his left hand while aiming his revolver at Clemens with his right. Suddenly, Clemens opened fire on the door, then ran back around the kitchen to his horse without taking the time to assess the effect of his shots. One of his bullets had struck Edwards' extended right arm, hitting just above the elbow and traveling six inches up the arm before exiting and penetrating his back, where it went another eight inches before coming to rest against his spinal column.

Fearing capture, Edwards burst from the kitchen and fled for the safety of the woods, abandoning Newberry and the New Yorker. Meanwhile, the New Yorker fired twice at Clemens as the Rebel passed the back door. Clemens supposedly cried out to Waring that he was wounded and that the kitchen was full of Yankees. Newberry leveled his Sharpe's rifle at Waring and fired, convincing himself that he heard a "deep groan of agony" from the officer, who fell from his horse and had to be assisted to one of the slave cabins for treatment.

(In post-war correspondence with 2nd Lt. Alexander McCrie Duncan, former adjutant and historian of the Georgia Hussars, Newberry added a civilian to the Rebel party. In the more sensationalized versions of the incident, published by J. Madison Drake in the 1900s, whoever it was that Newberry shot supposedly cried out, "I'm down, Fitzhugh!" Duncan disputes Newberry's version of the facts in his 1897 secondhand account of the event, claiming that no civilian was present and that Waring, Wauldhauer, and Guerard were oblivious to the unfolding situation and thought Clemens was firing at the turkeys they had come to gather. According to Duncan, one of the shots glanced off another object and struck Waring in the thigh with the force of a spent round, prompting Waring to warn Clemens to mind where he was shooting. As Clemens ran toward his horse, he informed the captain that "there are several of us shooting here.")

The Rebels galloped off without their turkeys and with one of them blowing on an alarm whistle to drum up reinforcements from

nearby Rebel encampments. Newberry indicates that he lingered near Oak Hill for up to an hour afterward, intending to shoot at the Rebels if they attempted to return. The New Yorker is not mentioned again in the narratives and may have parted ways with Newberry in the meantime.

While Newberry waited for his second chance to fire on the Confederates, he was rejoined by his wounded comrade, Edwards, who had crawled out of the woods and was clearly in need of immediate medical attention. Edwards was quickly losing the feeling in his legs and could no longer stand on his own, requiring Newberry to carry the heavier man on his back. They started for camp, but after a couple of hours, they realized that they had been traveling deeper into Confederate territory toward Fairfax Court House. To make matters worse, it began to rain, and the wind prevented Newberry from hearing the roar of Accotink Creek and getting his bearings.

Edwards was becoming delirious with thirst. Newberry laid him down in the center of a cornfield and went off in search of water. Fortunate to find a source, Newberry made repeated trips to satiate Edward's thirst during the night.

At about 4 o'clock in the morning, the wind finally changed direction and revealed the sound of Accotink Creek. Newberry lifted Edwards onto his shoulders again, and struggled onward until they reached the picket post at Edsall's Hill around 9 o'clock in the morning.¹¹ On Wednesday, 6 November, Sgt. John Judd, on picket duty at Edsall's Farm, simply records the incident in his diary: "Cop'l Edwards of Co D shot while on a scout beyond Springfield."

The wounded scout was placed in a cart and transported back to the Seminary Hospital at Fort Worth. His arrival was noticed by Lt. John Roberts, who was just putting the finishing touches on his correspondence to the *Woodbury Constitution*, when after his signature, he added:

A small wagon has just arrived from Fairfax Station with one of the privates of Company D wounded in three places. He was out in company with two others as scouts, and while in the vicinity of the Station, they were fired upon by four mounted men of the Rebel army. His wounds are not dangerous.¹²

Intelligence Gathering

Believing that he and Edwards had narrowly escaped death or capture at the hands of the Loudoun Scouts, Newberry began devoting his scouting expeditions to gathering actionable intelligence against this band of Confederate cavalry. About a month after the Oak Hill kitchen skirmish and again at the Fitzhugh home, a slave who had accompanied his master within the Rebel lines at Centreville earlier in the day provided information to Newberry about a supposed mission that the Loudoun County Scouts would undertake that evening.

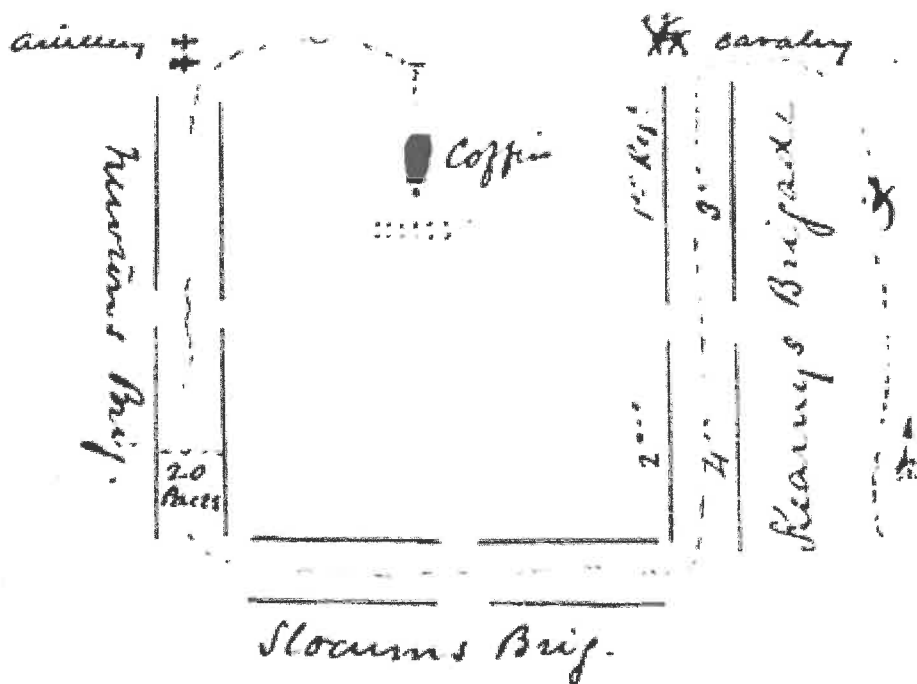
Deeming this intelligence reliable, Newberry passed it up the chain of command to his brigade commander, Gen. Philip Kearny, who ordered the 3rd NJ's colonel, George W. Taylor, to take Newberry and a small force of men out to intercept the enemy. Thus, sometime on the morning of Wednesday, 4 December, a detachment of five to ten men from each company, carrying Springfield muskets loaded with ball and extra buckshot, passed out of the Federal lines at Edsall's Hill.

Sources differ with regard to the number of men detailed to Taylor's skirmish party. In the *Official Records*, Col. Taylor reports that he took a party of 50; in later testimony, Taylor says that there were 55 men. Contemporary newspapers generally reported a party of 55 men, although some give a number as low as 20 to 30 (possibly referring to just the men positioned at the wire). For example, Pvt. McCarter writes in his letter that there were five men from each company; Sgt. Judd records in his diary "a detail of ten men from each Co. made to reconnoiter with Col. Taylor."

According to Duncan, captured Pvt. John W. Eacritt said that there were eight men from each company. Although Frank Coles records ten men from each company in the letter he started on 27 November 1861, his letter of 12 December says that twelve men of Co. A were involved.

The small force of men traveled through the woods to Old Braddock Road. A snow shower on Monday night had briefly whitewashed the desolate Virginia landscape, but the snow had mostly melted and turned the pike to mud with water-filled puddles frozen over with ice a quarter-of-an-inch thick.¹³

Around 4 o'clock in the afternoon, while at a halt "six and one half miles this side of Fairfax Court House" and "about a mile and a quarter" beyond the Union picket line, with the men hidden in the woods, Col.



Daniel Penrose Buckley's sketch of the Johnson execution with the position of the brigades in Franklin's Division designated.

D. Penrose Buckley Letter, MS 1775, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

Taylor was approached by a lone Union soldier on horseback. According to later testimony, the cavalryman beckoned to Taylor, who he mistakenly thought was a Rebel on account of the overcoat Taylor was wearing, and identified himself as Pvt. William Henry Johnson of the 1st NY (Lincoln) Cavalry. Johnson confessed that he had been looking for an opportunity to desert to the South for some time so he could travel to New Orleans and visit his mother.

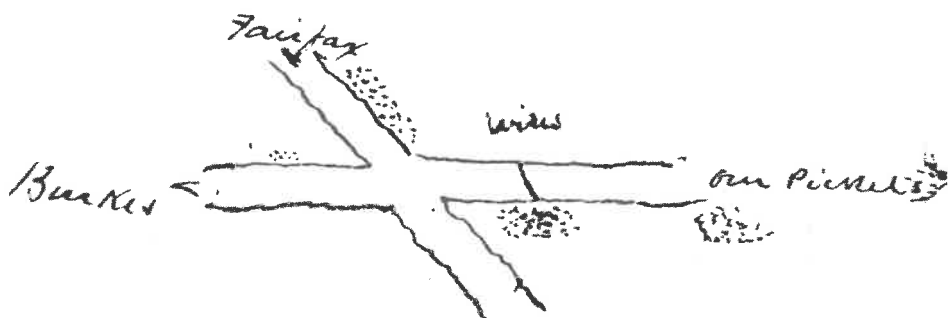
Taylor called up Newberry, who may have been disguised in Confederate butternut, and said to him, "Here is one of them come to join us." The two questioned Johnson about the location of Union pickets and asked his opinion on whether they could be easily captured. Johnson pointed to "the Dickens' house," Ossian Hall, and revealed that Union videttes "were all over the hill around that white house."

In the course of their conversation, Newberry asked Johnson what arms the Lincoln Cavalry carried. Johnson handed the scout his pistol, which Newberry examined for some time and then handed over to Taylor. The pistol was already capped, and when Taylor had the gun in hand, he cocked the piece, aimed it at Johnson, and said, "Dismount or I will blow your brains out."

Johnson obeyed. Once on his feet, his hands were tied behind his back, and four men were detailed to take him and his horse back to camp. At his court-martial, Johnson was convicted and sentenced to be shot near the Fairfax Theological Seminary on 13 December, with Gen. William B. Franklin's entire division drawn up to bear witness to the execution. Johnson would become the first Union soldier to be executed for desertion.¹⁴

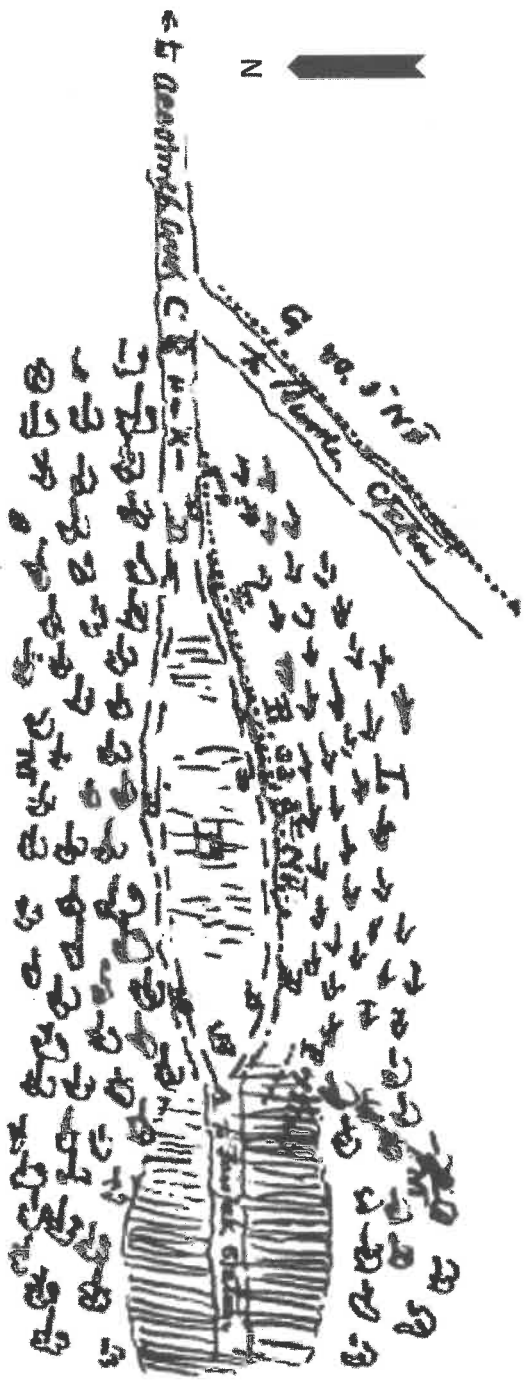
Setting Up the Ambuscade

After encountering Johnson, members of the 3rd NJ continued their march by crossing Accotink Creek and then Long Branch, until they reached a fork in the Braddock Road. Brigade headquarters had specially selected this location as an excellent place to set their ambush. Just west of the fork, Braddock Road passed through "a perfect bog hole" 40 or 50 yards long and half as many yards wide. According to Lt. William Washington Gordon of the Georgia Hussars, it had "high banks on one side covered with pines, and on the other a swampy spot containing a dense growth of alder and other shrubs and trees."¹⁵ At the western end



Buckley's sketch of the Bog Wallow skirmish site was included in a 14 December 1861 letter he sent. The depicted crossroads would most likely be the intersection of Braddock Road and Guinea Road.

D. Penrose Buckley Letter, MS 1775, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA



A map of the Bog Wallow skirmish site, drawn from memory by Lt. Alexander M. Duncan in 1897. Author's analysis strongly suggests the section of road west of the Rolling Road intersection as the location of the skirmish, despite the southwesterly direction of the intersecting road.

Alexander McC. Duncan, "Roll of Officers and Members of the Georgia Hussars and of the Cavalry Companies," [Savannah] *Morning News*, 1906



*An overlay of the 1937 aerial survey with the 2011 Virtual Earth satellite image.
“A Look Back at Braddock District,” www.braddockheritage.org*

of the bog, the road ascended 20 yards through a steep and narrow defile before it continued onward toward Fairfax Court House.

The precise identification of the intersecting road and the location of the bog cannot be definitively determined, but a study of the topography and accounts currently available suggests the section of Braddock Road immediately west of modern-day Rolling Road as the most probable location of the skirmish. Secondhand accounts and even some firsthand accounts create some uncertainty regarding this location. A sketch drawn at the bottom of a letter written by nonparticipant D. Penrose Buckley depicts the skirmish site at a crossroads that would agree with the intersection of Braddock and modern-day Guinea Road. In a series of correspondence written in the late 1890s, Newberry first placed the skirmish at a fork on Guinea Road, until he was corrected by Alexander McCrie Duncan, former adjutant of the Georgia Hussars, who reminded him that the ambush took place on the Braddock Road.

The hand-drawn map Newberry included with his correspondence, although probably not drawn with any attention to scale, could even suggest a site farther east on the Braddock Road, closer to Accotink Creek and Oak Hill. At about the same time, W.W. Gordon reminisced about the Battle of Bog Wallow. Gordon described the site in the Accotink Creek valley, at the bottom of Rebel Hill, probably near where Braddock Road both intersects modern-day Wakefield Chapel Road and crosses over Long Branch Creek.¹⁶

While Col. Taylor was convinced that the Rebels would approach from the direction of Burke's Station on the forked road, Newberry expressed equal certainty that the Confederates would travel along the Old Braddock Road from the direction of Fairfax. They compromised by dividing their force in two: Taylor waited with half of the men along the intersecting road, while Newberry's contingent, under the command of Lt. Franklin L. Knight, concealed itself amongst the pines on the south side of Braddock Road.

At nightfall, near the intersection at the eastern end of the bog, Newberry was granted permission to execute a plan of his that he had been anxious to try for some time: two telegraph wires were stretched across the muddy road with the intent of unsaddling riders traveling at a gallop. One wire was designed to reach above the knee of the horse, while the other was meant to take the rider in the chest.



Col. George W. Taylor commanded the party on the road leading to Burke's Station.

LC-DIG-cwpb-05748, Library of Congress, Washington, DC



Capt. Franklin L. Knight was given charge of the ambush party hidden along the Braddock Road.

LC-DIG-cwpb-04993, Library of Congress, Washington, DC

The majority of Knight's men hid near the barricade. Newberry and seven other men moved closer to the western end of the swamp near the mouth of the defile, to be in the rear of the enemy when they reached the obstruction. There, Knight's men intended to block the avenue of retreat with bayonets after the trap had been sprung.

While waiting for something to turn up, Taylor issued the order that when the sentinels reported the advance of the cavalry, every man was to cock his musket, take aim, and await the order to fire.¹⁷

At 10 o'clock of that same evening, while assigned to picket duty, Waring determined to take 23 men of his command out on a scouting expedition without the authorization of his commanding officer, or of making known his purpose and destination. The seeming spontaneity of Waring's decision makes it unlikely that Fitzhugh's slave had advance knowledge of his plans. In fact, Newberry was adamant in later correspondence that the trap was not intended for the Georgia Hussars but for those enigmatic Loudoun Scouts. In a letter written home shortly after the skirmish, Hussars' Lt. W.W. Gordon stated that their purpose that evening had been to capture Yankee pickets at Annandale. Capt. Waring was apparently vexed that the Hussars had not been included in the intense skirmishing that had occurred there on 2 December.¹⁸

From Fairfax Station, Waring and his men traveled across country to the Braddock Road at or near the Williams house (located at the present intersection with Twinbrook Road), and began moving east along Braddock toward the Accotink Creek. Around midnight, the pickets in advance gave the alarm that Rebel cavalry were approaching on the Braddock Road.

Newberry had been correct, although every Northern writer on the skirmish claimed that the Rebels had appeared "on the wrong road" than the one usually taken by them. The main body of the Hussars was moving along the road in columns of two, with Capt. Waring and Lt. Waldhauer in the lead, followed by Lt. Gordon and Sgt. Thomas Dunham and so on, until Cpl. Joseph Washburn and Pvt. Thomas Goulding Heidt brought up the column's rear.

Pvt. Clemens¹⁹ was riding in advance of the column, just within sight of Pvt. Franklin Bird, who was riding a similar distance ahead of Waring and the rest of the Hussars. Lt. Gordon writes that the party was traveling in silence with their arms ready, but Lt. Duncan's secondhand history



*An engraving titled "The Civil War in America: Advanced Post of General Blenker's Division Surprised at Anandale [sic], Virginia, by Confederate Cavalry." The cavalry was a detachment of the 6th VA.
The Illustrated London News, 18 January 1862*

claims that with the party being some distance away from where they expected to encounter the enemy, some of the men were softly singing a comic song called, "The Little Pigs Lay with Their Tails All Curled."²⁰

On defiling from the cut into the swamp, the pace of Clemens' horse was retarded by the icy mud, which was giving his horse uncertain and insecure footing. Under those conditions, Bird and the main body of the Hussars began to catch up to Clemens. To avoid the boggy conditions, the columns led by Waring and Waldhauer diverged and skirted the edge of the woods adjoining each side of the bog.²¹

As the last of the men filed into the bog, Waring noticed that Clemens and Bird had come to a halt and asked, "What the devil is the matter?"

Clemens had barely responded, "Captain, there is a rope across the road!" when the woods in front and on their right erupted in one sheet of fire.

According to Gordon, "The muzzles of the muskets were so near that the flame seemed right in our faces and the clothes of almost every man was singed and blackened."²²

In the pause that followed the volley, Waring calmly ordered his men to wheel around and charge, which was correctly interpreted by his men as a directive to hastily retreat. Some of the Hussars returned fire with shotgun blasts, aiming in the direction of where they had seen earlier muzzle flashes. Clemens even took the time to dismount in the bog and recover his hat, which had been knocked off by a bullet that grazed his skull.

It may have been after the Hussars had wheeled about that Newberry's small party of men fired their volley and rushed into the road, because the last rider in the column, Heidt, was shot in the left leg below the knee, suggesting that he had already turned when he and his horse were shot. The bullet shattered the bone and passed into his horse, causing his mount to stumble at the mouth of the defile and sending Heidt flying. Waldhauer dismounted his horse to pick up the disabled private. The two rode away to safety.

The body of Heidt's horse now blocked the mouth of the cut, forming an obstacle that the other horses had to jump or scramble over. Likewise, the horses of at least two other privates, Ball and Cuthbert, were shot and collapsed with their riders at the defile's entrance.

Gordon's horse was shot and plunged forward into the building pile of men and horseflesh. As he struggled to disentangle himself from the confused melee, George W. Dillon's horse failed to make the jump and rolled over him. Gordon regained his feet, only to be knocked down by the forehooves of Waring's horse as it vaulted over the pile.

Quickly returning to his feet, Gordon walked up the road and spotted a solitary horse. But as he took the bridle, Bird appeared and said, "This is my horse." Gordon got up behind him. The two rode five miles back to the picket post, reportedly the last to come in.²³

After firing his gun, Newberry ordered the seven men in his contingent into the road to close the trap and block the Hussars' escape. Upon issuing his order, the nearby flash from both barrels of a shotgun knocked him senseless to the ground.²⁴

Union Pvt. Joseph Haggerty tried to pike a passing Rebel with his bayonet but succeeded only in plunging the point into the Rebel's saddle, which roughly flung the private to the ground. The Rebel reined his horse to a halt and fired his pistol point-blank at Haggerty before riding off, leaving Haggerty seemingly uninjured but with his face blackened by gunpowder.²⁵

Meanwhile, Newberry had regained his feet and cautiously returned to the skirmish and what he described as a nightmare, hearing "praying and cursing mingled with the shrieks of wounded horses" in the darkness. He soon collapsed, having actually received the full brunt of a shotgun blast and a pistol shot to his left arm, side, and chest, piercing him in twelve places.²⁶

Waring rode out of the bog with numerous holes in his uniform and a two-inch gouge in his right cheek. McIntosh and Clemens had each received minor bullet wounds. Heidt survived the skirmish but would die two weeks later in a Charlottesville hospital of causes related to his wound.

Dunham's horse was safely recovered in the rear but without its rider; one stirrup over the saddle suggested to the others that he had fallen from his seat. Gordon wrote that Dunham had been riding next to him and had been blown completely out of the saddle with shots to the body and head. He later recalled that "in the light of the first volley his mare was seen erect on her hind legs, with a wound in her mouth and without her rider."²⁷



The location of Pvt. Edward S.E. Newberry's gunshot wounds were noted in an 1868 examining-surgeon's certificate included with Newberry's pension application.

Newberry, Civil War Pension No. Inv. 126,877, RG 15, National Archives, Washington, DC

After Dunham was unsaddled, he was called upon to surrender but attempted to escape into the woods. Still refusing to capitulate, he drew his sword and shouted to Capt. Waring to rally the men. Dunham was quieted either with the prick of a bayonet or the breech or butt of a musket, depending upon the source.²⁸

After the Ambuscade

The Federals retired first to Ravensworth, where Newberry—the “fifer who has been acting as a scout”—was laid without cover beside the captured orderly sergeant in a wagon taken from Mrs. Fitzhugh. They were transported the twelve miles back to camp, nearly perishing from the freezing weather. Although the 3rd NJ’s regimental surgeon, Dr. Lorenzo Lewis Cox, had reportedly traveled with the party as far as Ravensworth, Newberry complained in his pension application that he did not receive surgical care until his arrival at the Seminary Hospital around 7 o’clock.²⁹

The skirmish party returned to Edsall’s Hill, where they met Co. C and Co. E of the 3rd, under the command of Capt. Edward L. Campbell, who had been sent to Springfield Station to provide support to Col. Taylor, if necessary.³⁰ On returning to camp, Pvt. Haggerty discovered that his leg actually hurt because the Rebel horseman had shot him through the fleshy part of his thigh, and the pain he was suffering was not just due to his being unceremoniously flung to the ground.³¹

There were early rumors that Pvt. Michael Lawrence of Co. G and another soldier from Co. H were among the wounded, but Lawrence’s injuries were never officially recorded, and those of the Co. H soldier remain a rumor. Furthermore, a roll call revealed that two additional privates were missing: John Eacritt of Co. A and Stephen Tomkinson of Co. B.

Later that morning, a party of Union scouts returned to the ambush site, where they found the wounded Tomkinson still alive and conscious but “frozen fast in a mud hole.” Lieutenant Buckley of Co. C claims that in the darkness Tomkinson had been mistaken for a wounded Rebel and left behind. Extricated from the ice, Tomkinson was brought to the picket post at Edsall’s Hill, but he died about an hour later—sometime around noon—more likely from exposure than his wounds. The English immigrant, in the country for only seventeen months, was buried with military honors the following day. The scouts returned with “two horses,

a sabre, revolver, & a few other trophies and reported that they heard distinctly the groans of wounded men through the woods but did not enter them.”³²

There was still no sign of Pvt. John Eacritt, and the regiment remained hopeful that he would wander into camp or the picket post at Edsall’s Hill later in the day. But by Saturday the seventh, the most plausible impression was that “in the darkness and confusion, after the firing he mistook his way, wandered among the Rebels, and was captured.”³³

The Hussars returned to Fairfax Station before daybreak, where they met Gen. J.E.B. Stuart preparing to lead a reconnaissance party to Springfield and Annandale.³⁴ Capt. Waring, Lt. Gordon, and their adjutant, 2nd Lt. Duncan (who had been left in command of the pickets) expressed anxiety over the fate of Dunham and were granted permission to accompany Stuart as part of his staff.

As the party rode toward Springfield, they noticed a man lying under a fence. It was Eacritt, the missing infantryman, who confessed upon questioning that he had fled into the woods without his gun, hat, or blankets, when he heard Waring’s command to charge. Eacritt was sent to the rear as a prisoner and forwarded to Richmond.

The Confederates returned to Bog Wallow near dark, where the two telegraph wires could still be seen stretched across the road. They picked up hats and personal articles left behind by the Hussars, and recovered saddle, bridle, and equipment from Heidt’s wounded horse.³⁵ But there was no sign of Dunham.

In his report, Capt. Waring attempted to mitigate the unauthorized excursion and the ambush. In Waring’s version of events, the Union troops broke and fled upon hearing his order to charge. He owed their escape to the “wild firing” of the Federals and to “the good conduct of [the] men under the trying emergency of a surprise at midnight by a force of picked men five times their number.”

However, Gen. J.E.B. Stuart could not approve of Waring’s tempting of providence. Stuart wrote that Waring’s conduct was “so inexcusable as not to be counterbalanced by the extraordinary escape of his command.” Stuart trusted that the ambush had curbed their thirst for adventure, noting that “the field for enterprise and personal daring is wide enough in the legitimate sphere of duty.”³⁶



Scabbard of the commemorative sword presented to Capt. Edward S.E. Newberry. It is engraved with the engagements he participated in and the date of his wounding: "Wound'd Dec. 5 1861."

Photograph courtesy of the Brunton Family

Gen. Kearny was elated by the success of Taylor's expedition, declaring that "the audacity of the enemy's cavalry has been punished within his own lines," and that the 3rd's success had more than avenged Union losses at Annandale.

Furthermore, Kearny announced that the 3rd's casualties would "inaugurate a badge hereafter to be worn by all the wounded as constant evidence of their having been proven in fire."³⁷ To date, however, research has given no indication that Newberry ever received one of the golden-orange Maltese crosses.

Newberry's Recognition

In mid-June 1862, Kearny wrote a letter to New Jersey Governor Charles Olden highly recommending Newberry as an officer for one of the regiments then being raised. His letter says that Newberry "has evinced great aptitude and daring as a scout and was badly wounded and particularly distinguished in the ambush fight of the 3d N.J. Vols under then Col Taylor on the 5th Dec'r last."

Likewise, Gen. Taylor's letter to the governor praised Newberry's "natural qualifications and experience as a soldier" and remarked upon the young veteran's courage and "unusual abilities as a scout." Taunted as a traitor to the South when he first joined the regiment, Newberry was now honored with the sobriquet of the "Jersey Scout."³⁸

Newberry was released from Seminary Hospital in the early part of 1862 and was present when the 3rd entered the abandoned Confederate fortifications at Centreville. He was assigned as an orderly to Gen. Kearny and, subsequently, to Gen. Taylor. Newberry received a disability discharge from the 3rd NJ, and he accepted a second lieutenant's commission in the 11th NJ Volunteer Infantry in August 1862.³⁹ The regimental historian of the 11th NJ writes that Newberry was regarded as a strict disciplinarian, but he was dearly loved by the men of his company.

On 3 May at the Battle of Chancellorsville, Newberry was struck in the leg by a bullet early in the morning as he helped his wounded captain from the field.⁴⁰ He did not recover from this second wounding until the latter part of 1863. He was promoted to captain and briefly served as Assistant Aide-de-camp for both Col. Robert McAllister of the 11th NJ, and then on the staff of Gen. William H. French. Newberry was transferred to the Veteran Reserve Corps in January 1864.



Grave of Edward S.E. Newberry in the Carmody family plot, Rahway Cemetery, Rahway, New Jersey.

Photograph by author

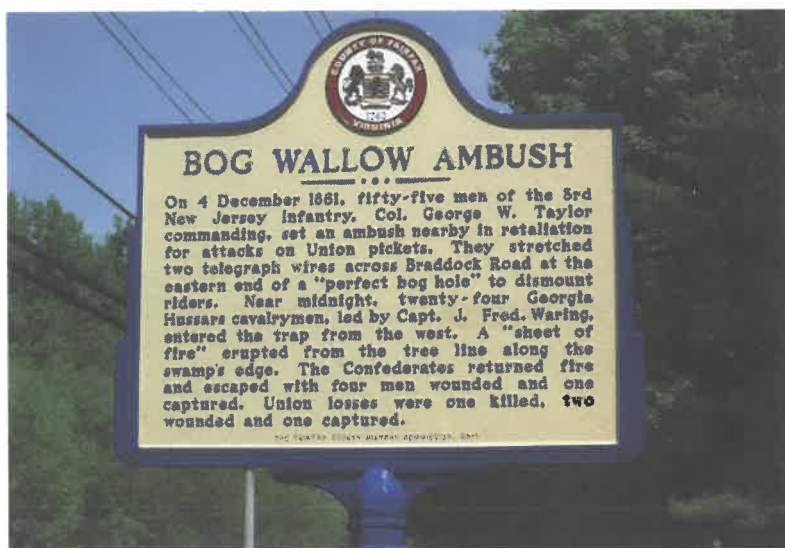
In the depositions included with his pension applications, Newberry expressed his belief that life as a scout—sleeping outdoors in the woods, often wet for a week at a time—had made him rheumatic; carrying his wounded comrade, Cpl. Edwards, on his back had permanently stooped his posture; and the shotgun blast and pistol ball wounds had crippled his left arm and made him unable to perform manual labor. After the Civil War, he applied for a commission in the Regular Army with the recommendation of his congressman and other prominent citizens of New Jersey, but he was informed that there were no vacancies.⁴¹ Newberry served as a sheriff and even as a milkman after the war, attended reunions of the 11th, and spoke to elementary school children of his war experience on President Abraham Lincoln's birthday.⁴²

He lived to the age of 80, dying in Rahway, New Jersey, on 12 January 1920, at the home of his daughter. He was buried in nearby Rahway Cemetery.⁴³ His headstone simply denotes, "Pvt Co D 3 Regt NJ Vol Inf." Nothing at the gravesite indicates Newberry's pivotal role in coordinating Taylor's midnight ambush at a bog on the Braddock Road.



The May 2013 unveiling of the Fairfax County History Commission historical marker "Bog Wallow Ambuscade."

Photograph by John Browne



The "Bog Wallow Ambuscade" marker is located at the corner of Braddock Road and Dunleigh Drive.

Photograph by John Browne

Endnotes

- 1 *Atlantic Democrat* [Egg Harbor City, NJ], 6 July 1861, 2.
- 2 U.S. War Department, *War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, Series I, Vol. 51 (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1880–1901), 49; Alexander McCrie Duncan, comp., *Roll of Officers and Members of the Georgia Hussars, and of the Cavalry Companies, of Which the Hussars Are a Continuation, with Historical Sketch Relating Facts Showing the Origin and Necessity of Rangers or Mounted Men in the Colony of Georgia from Date of Its Founding* (Savannah, GA: *The Morning News*, 1906), 478–95; W.H. McCarter, “The Telegraph Wire Trap,” *New Jersey Herald* [Newton, NJ], 14 December 1861, 2. The skirmish is also referred to as the “Bog Wallow Ambuscade,” “Battle of Bog Wallow,” and “Midnight Ambuscade.”
- 3 Charles F. Salkeld, “Camp Correspondence [letter dated 4 August 1861],” *Bridgeton* [NJ] *Chronicle*, 10 August 1861; Charles F. Salkeld, “Camp Correspondence [letter dated 11 August 1861],” *Bridgeton Chronicle*, 17 August 1861; Charles F. Salkeld, “Camp Correspondence [letter dated 17 August 1861],” *Bridgeton Chronicle*, 24 August 1861.
- 4 *Sussex Register* [Newton, NJ], 27 September 1861, 2; J.R., “Letters from the Army [letter dated 19 September 1861],” *Woodbury* [NJ] *Constitution*, 24 September 1861. (The army correspondent, J.R., is most likely Lt. John Roberts of Co. A.); Jacob R. Freese, “Editorial Correspondence [letter dated 15 September 1861],” *Trenton* [NJ] *State Gazette*, 18 September 1861, 2; Francis B. Dedmond and Harvey Davis, “Harvey Davis’s Unpublished Civil War ‘Diary’ and the Story of Company D of the First North Carolina Cavalry,” *Appalachian Journal* No. 13, (Summer 1986): 384; *Macon* [GA] *Telegraph*, 22 August 1861, 3.
- 5 “Firing at Pickets,” *Daily National Intelligencer* [Washington, DC], 21 September 1861, 3.
- 6 McCarter; J.R., “Letters From the Army [letter dated 27 November 1861],” *Woodbury Constitution*, 3 December 1861; D. Penrose Buckley to his mother, letter dated 5 December 1861, MSS 1775, D. Penrose Buckley Papers 1861–1940, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. J.R. mentions the Loudoun County Scouts by name, and, while this unit is mentioned in the later writings of several members of the 3rd NJ, the definitive identity of this outfit has not been determined. Buckley tells his mother that “Col. Taylor went out this morning with 60 men to lie in wait for the Loudon [*sic*] Cavalry (secesh) who are in the habit of making nightly tramps in the neighborhood of Mrs. Fitzhue’s [*sic*].”
- 7 Listed in the regimental books, on muster rolls, and referred to by his comrades as Edward S.E. Newberry, he sometimes spelled his last name *Newbury*, as evidenced by correspondence to the *Sussex Register*. He permanently switched to this alternate spelling after the war.
- 8 Edward S. Newberry, “Letter to the Editor [letter dated 10 November 1861],” *New Jersey Herald*, 16 November 1861, 3; Duncan, 479, 486–87; J. Madison Drake, “The Spy Who Was Trapped Inside the Lines,” *The Morning Standard* [Ogden,

- UT], 25 December 1910, 13, Historic American Newspaper Collection, www.loc.gov, accessed 9 December 2011; J. Madison Drake, "Gallant Union Scout," in *Historical Sketches of the Revolutionary and Civil Wars* (New York: Webster Press, 1908), 207; J. Madison Drake, "Civil War Remembrances: Desperate and Thrilling Adventure of Scout Who Carried Wounded Comrade Ten Miles," undated clipping from unidentified newspaper, in MS 1088, J. Madison Drake Scrapbook ca. 1911–1913, New Jersey Historical Society, Newark, NJ; Edward S.E. Newberry (Capt., Co. D, 21st Vol. Res. Corps., Civil War), Civil War Pension No. Inv. 126,877, Case Files of Approved Pension Applications 1861–1934, Civil War and Later Pension Files, Department of Veterans Affairs, RG 15, National Archives.
- 9 Joseph E. Johnston, *Narrative of Military Operations During the War Between the States* (New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1874), 82.
 - 10 William Washington Gordon to Nelly Kinzie Gordon, letter dated 6 December 1861, MSS 2235, Gordon Family Papers, Southern Historical Collection, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, NC.
 - 11 Newberry, "Letter to the Editor [letter dated 10 November 1861]"; Duncan, 479, 487, 493–94; Drake, "The Spy Who Was Trapped Inside the Lines"; Drake, "Gallant Union Scout," 207–10; Drake, "Civil War Remembrances"; Newberry, Civil War Pension No. Inv. 126,877.
 - 12 John S. Judd, diary entry dated 6 November 1861, microfilm MS 982.01, Judd Family Diaries, Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, KS; J.R., "Letters From the Army [letter dated 5 November 1861]," *Woodbury Constitution*, 12 November 1861. Edwards recovered from his wounds, rejoined the regiment, and rose through the ranks to become captain of Co. E. At the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House, Edwards would become one of several men from the regiment listed as missing in action and presumed dead. Compiled Service Record, Thomas P. Edwards, Capt., Co. E, 3 New Jersey Inf., Carded Records, Volunteer Organizations, Civil War; Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780s–1917, RG 94, National Archives.
 - 13 U.S. War Department, 49–50; Duncan, 479; John S. Judd, diary entry dated 4 December 1861, microfilm MS 982.01, Judd Family Diaries, Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, KS; Frank H. Coles, "A Leaf From My Diary, No. 24," *Woodbury Constitution*, 10 December 1861; Frank H. Coles, "A Leaf From My Diary, No. 26," *Woodbury Constitution*, 24 December 1861; McCarter; "News from Gen. Hooker's Division," *New York Herald*, 11 December 1861.
 - 14 "The First Military Execution for Desertion," *New York Herald*, 14 December 1861, 8; Newberry, Civil War Pension No. Inv. 126,877; Drake, "Deserter Capture; Shot by Comrades: Thrilling Story of Capture Made by Captain Edward S.E. Newberry Is Told by General Drake—Work of Spy Has Its Perils," undated clipping from unidentified newspaper found in MS 1088, J. Madison Drake Scrapbook ca. 1911–1913, New Jersey Historical Society, Newark, NJ; *Letters Received by the Commission Branch of the Adjutant General's Office, 1863–1870*, Capt. Edward S.E. Newbury, M1064, National Archives. The remembrance

published by Drake seems highly sensationalized in giving Newberry single-handed credit for capturing Johnson. Newberry states in his own military history provided to the Commission Branch, "I brought Johnson to Col. Taylor while we were laying in wait for the enemy. ... I found him in the brush, he mistook me for a Confederate soldier, and I captured and took him to Col. Taylor." In his pension record, Newberry declares that while on scout, he was "sometimes in Rebel dress and sometimes in my own uniform."

- 15 Gordon to Kinzie Gordon, letter dated 6 December 1861; U.S. War Department, 49–50.
- 16 McCarter; Bohemian, "Army of the Potomac, Outpost near Fairfax, Dec. 6th," *The Daily Dispatch*, 10 December 1861, 1; Duncan, 480; Beth Mitchell, *Beginning at a White Oak ... : Patents and Northern Neck Grants of Fairfax County, Virginia* (Fairfax, VA: Fairfax County Administrative Services, 1977), 170; U.S. Department of the Interior, "Geological Survey Topographic Map: Virginia, Fairfax Quadrangle," 15 foot series, 1915; Griffith Morgan Hopkins, *Atlas of Fifteen Miles around Washington Including the County of Prince George Maryland*, 1878), 72; Maps and Atlases, digital images, Johns Hopkins Sheridan Library General Collections, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, accessed 26 August 2012, <https://jscholarship.library.jhu.edu/handle/1774.2/33000>. Some of the earliest newspaper accounts, (for example, "Spirited Skirmish at Annandale—Novel Mode of Capturing Rebels—Seven Rebels Killed and Three Captured," *Philadelphia Inquirer*, 6 December 1861) incorrectly placed the skirmish on the Little River Turnpike. Also, on pp. 74–75 of James H. Stevenson, *"Boots and Saddles": A History of the First Volunteer Cavalry of the War, Known as the First New York (Lincoln) Cavalry, and Also as the Sabre Regiment, Its Organization, Campaigns, and Battles* (Harrisburg, PA: Patriot Publishing, 1879), the author appears to be giving their unit credit for the telegraph wire trap on the Little River Turnpike. The angle and direction of modern-day Burke Lake Road agrees more with the maps of Newberry and Duncan, but that intersection does not appear on maps until the 1915 geological survey map. A spur of Guinea Road that intersects Braddock Road at the proper angle appears on Civil War maps, but if it once existed, it disappeared by 1878, and the topography of its approximate intersection does not match descriptions of the skirmish site.
- 17 McCarter; U.S. War Department, 49–50; William H. Snowden, "Letter from the Army [letter dated 5 December 1861]," *Woodbury Constitution*, 10 December 1861; Robert B. Yard, "Our Army Correspondence [letter dated 14 December 1861]," *Monmouth [NJ] Democrat*, 26 December 1861. Snowden writes that the "doomed party . . . were heard approaching, but from a different direction from that anticipated. . . . Had the Rebels come from the direction always seen before and that then expected, hardly one of them would have escaped."
- 18 U.S. War Department, 49–50; Gordon to Kinzie Gordon, letter dated 6 December 1861. In his endorsement, Col. Field writes, "This expedition was made without my knowledge."

- 19 The fact that Clemens (of the Oak Hill shootout) was guiding the Hussars would suggest that he may have been the scout in Van Dorn's division who had been highly touted in Gen. Johnston's memoirs.
- 20 Duncan, 488; Gordon to Kinzie Gordon, letter dated 6 December 1861; McCarter; United States Army Corps of Topographical Engineers, Map of n. eastern Virginia and vicinity of Washington corrected from recent surveys and reconnaissances under direction of the Bureau of Topographical Engineers, August 1st 1862. Drawn by J.J. Young [and] W. Hesselbach, 1862.
- 21 Gordon to Kinzie Gordon, letter dated 6 December 1861.
- 22 D. Penrose Buckley to John S. Newbold, letter dated 14 December 1861, MSS 1775, D. Penrose Buckley Papers 1861–1940, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA; Gordon to Kinzie Gordon, letter dated 6 December 1861; William Washington Gordon, "War Stories: Account of Ambush (December, 1861) or Ambuscade Nicknamed by Soldiers as 'Battle of Bog Wallow'," MS 8816, Gordon Family Papers, 1802–1946, Southern Historical Collection, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, NC; MSS 318; Manuscript Collection, Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, GA; Yard, "Our Army Correspondence [letter dated 14 December 1861]" *Monmouth Democrat*, 26 December 1861; U.S. War Department, 49; Record of Events, Nov. & Dec. 1861, for Co. E, Jeff Davis Legion, Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers who Served in Organizations from the State of Mississippi, M269, R 66, National Archives. Yard mistakenly reports that the captured orderly sergeant, Dunham, was the first to encounter the wire and exclaimed, "Hallo here, there is something wrong."
- 23 Gordon to Kinzie Gordon, letter dated 6 December 1861; U.S. War Department, 49–50. Duncan, 489; Record of Events, Nov. & Dec. 1861, for Co. E, Jeff Davis Legion. Waring initially reported eight of the twenty-four men were missing. Gordon wrote in his letter that the dead horses at the mouth of the cut belonged to Cuthbert, McIntosh, and Ball. McIntosh's horse was shot in the head and reported as lost. From Duncan, we know that Heidt's horse was killed by the shot that struck his leg. Gordon lost the horse he was riding, as well. Capt. Waring reported four horses lost in his report, though the record of events indicates five horses lost.
- 24 Duncan, 494.
- 25 McCarter.
- 26 Duncan, 482, 494; "Skirmishes with Scouts," *Springfield Daily Republican*, 6 December 1861. Early newspaper accounts mention Newberry's wounding and speak of an eight-man party attempting to close the trap.
- 27 Joseph Frederick Waring, "The Georgia Hussars Ambuscaded and Several Wounded," *Augusta [GA] Chronicle*, 8 December 1861; Gordon to Kinzie Gordon, letter dated 6 December 1861; U.S. War Department, 49. Gordon, "War Stories."
- 28 "Spirited Skirmish Between a Party of the N.J. Third and Rebels," *Trenton State Gazette*, December 7, 1861; *Trenton State Gazette*, 10 December 1861, 2; Sarah Harriet Butts, "Anne H. Dunham," *The Mothers of Some Distinguished Georgians*

of the Last Half of the Century (New York: J.J. Little, 1902), 108.

- 29 Frank H. Coles, "A Leaf From My Diary, No. 25," *Woodbury Constitution*, 10 December 1861; Duncan, 494; Newberry, Civil War Pension No. Inv. 126,877.
- 30 U.S. War Department, 49–50; Circular, 5 December 1861, General Orders and Special Orders, War Department, Army of the Potomac, Franklin's Division, 1st Brigade; Records of U.S. Army Continental Commands, 1817–1947, RG 393, National Archives; Buckley to Newbold, letter dated 14 December 1861. In his letter to Newbold, Buckley of Co. C says that they set out from Fort Worth about 3:30 a.m. and arrived at Edsall's Hill at the same time Taylor's skirmish party was returning from the ambush. Taylor reportedly knew nothing about the available support.
- 31 McCarter.
- 32 Buckley to Newbold, letter dated 14 December 1861.
- 33 John S. Judd, diary entry, December 5, 1861, microfilm MS 982.01, Judd Family Diaries, Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, KS; Coles, "A Leaf From My Diary, No. 25"; Coles, "A Leaf From My Diary, No. 26"; McCarter; Isaac Clark to "Friend Lizzie," letter dated 26 December 1861, Gloucester County Historical Society, Woodbury, NJ; J.R., "Letters from the Army [letter dated 13 December 1861]," *Woodbury Constitution*, 17 December 1861; Snowden, Letters from the Army Compiled Service Record, Michael V. D. Lawrence Pvt., Co. G, 3 New Jersey Inf.; Carded Records, Volunteer Organizations, Civil War; Records of the Adjutant General's Office 1780s–1917, RG 94, National Archives; Michael V. D. Lawrence (Pvt., Co. G, 3rd N.J. Inf., Civil War), Pension No. Inv. 180,818, Case Files of Approved Pension Application, Civil War and Later Pension Files, Department of Veterans Affairs, RG 15, National Archives; Camille Baquet, *History of the First Brigade, New Jersey Volunteers from 1861 to 1865* (Trenton, NJ: MacCrellish & Quigley, 1910), 411–36 (particularly p. 422, where Hatfield claims that "the man killed was at Edsal's [*sic*] Hill with the pickets this noon.").

Pvt. Stephen Tomkinson is buried in Section A, Plot 1926, in Alexandria National Cemetery. In his official report, Taylor claims "four or five of [his] men being wounded," but only the death of Tomkinson and the wounding of Newberry and Haggerty are recorded in the regimental books. In his compiled military service record, Lawrence is listed as "wounded in skirmish" on the January/February 1862 muster roll. In his pension record, Lawrence indicates that he was wounded with buckshot in the right forearm during a nighttime skirmish with Rebel cavalry while on picket with Taylor, but Lawrence cannot remember the exact date, supposing the location to be at Bailey's Crossroads. Coles wrote, "but one man was killed from Company B. on our side, and three wounded—one from company H. one from company G., and one fifer who has been acting as a scout. One man is missing from company A., viz: John W. Eacritt." Regarding Eacritt, Isaac Clark said, "I think he was not seen after our men fired on the enemy." According to Bohemian, this was pretty close to the truth, as Eacritt admitted to fleeing at Waring's direction to charge.

- 34 U.S. War Department, 49–50; Bohemian, “Army of the Potomac, Outpost near Fairfax, Dec. 6th”; Duncan, 491; Buckley to Newbold, letter. A neighboring house claimed that Stuart’s party consisted of a regiment of Rebel infantry with two brass field pieces and several troops of cavalry.
- 35 Cuthbert’s horse was among those reported to have been shot and fallen at the mouth of the cut, according to the letters of both Gordon and Duncan. *The Daily Dispatch* correspondent wrote that “near by the spot was a horse belonging to private Cuthbert, who was wounded, in the leg, the same charge injuring the horse. The saddle, bridle and equipments were complete, and were taken by Capt. Waring.” Since Heidt, not Cuthbert, was the Hussar wounded in the leg, the writer may be referring to Heidt’s horse.
- 36 U.S. War Department, 49–50.
- 37 General Order No. 115, 5 December 1861, General Orders and Special Orders, War Department, Army of the Potomac, Franklin’s Division, 1st Brigade, *Records of U.S. Army Continental Commands, 1817–1947*, RG 393; National Archives.
- 38 *Letters Received by the Commission Branch of the Adjutant General’s Office, 1863–1870*. The letters enclosed are Newberry’s copies of the original.
- 39 Newberry, Civil War Pension No. Inv. 126,877; William S. Stryker, *Record of Officers and Men of New Jersey in the Civil War, 1861–1865* (Trenton, NJ: J. L. Murphy, 1876), 559.
- 40 Edward S.E. Newbury, “From the Eleventh Regiment,” *Sussex Register*, 15 May 1863; Thomas D. Marbaker, *History of the Eleventh New Jersey Volunteers* (Trenton, NJ: MacCrellish & Quigley, 1898). Marbaker served in the same company as Newberry (Co. E), which resulted in several anecdotes involving Newberry; “Eleventh Regiment Reunion,” *The Iron Era* [Dover, NJ], 12 November 1897, 1–2. Of his wounding at Chancellorsville, Newbury wrote, “A bullet came crashing through my leg below the knee, and coming out through the calf of my leg, causing me to nearly fall on my face.”
- 41 Newberry, Civil War Pension No. Inv. 126,877. Compiled service record, Edward S. E. Newberry, Capt., Co. E, 11 New Jersey Inf., Carded Records, Volunteer Organizations, Civil War; *Records of the Adjutant General’s Office, 1780s–1917*, RG 94, National Archives; Compiled service record, Edward S.E. Newberry, Capt., Co. D, 21 Volunteer Reserve Corps, Carded Records, Volunteer Organizations, Civil War, *Records of the Adjutant General’s Office, 1780s–1917*, RG 94, National Archives; *Letters Received by the Commission Branch of the Adjutant General’s Office, 1863–1870*; U.S. War Department, *War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, Series I, Vol. 29, (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1880–1901), 1, 737. MG William H. French wrote in his report of the Mine Run campaign that “At 4.30 a.m. on the 26th, I sent an aide-de-camp, Lieutenant Newbury, to General Prince.”
- 42 Irene Carmody Schaible to Michael S. Mitchell “Re: Edna Carmody daughter of Edward S.E. Newbury,” e-mail correspondence, 6 July 2011; 1870 U.S. Census, Union County, NJ, population schedule, Elizabeth Ward 3:70, citing microfilm

publication M593, RG 890, National Archives; "Eleventh Regiment Reunion"; Harry George Woodworth, *Civil War Veterans in the 20th Century: Extracted from the Elizabeth Daily Journal, Elizabeth, New Jersey* (Bowie: Heritage Books, 2003).

43 "Obituary Notes," *New York Tribune*, 15 January 1920, 6.



This Bonus Army camp in Anacostia was built and occupied in 1932 by veterans of World War I protesting not having been paid enlistment bonuses promised them by the federal government.

LC-H2-B-5266, Library of Congress, Washington, DC

The Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933–1942: Roosevelt’s “Tree Army”

By Mary Buckingham Lipsey

In 1932, United States voters elected President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who had promised to ease the pains of the Great Depression. In 1929, the nation had suffered the worst stock market crash in its history, when an estimated \$30 billion in stock value vanished. By 1933, the unemployment rate had increased to 33 percent. Many businesses and banks had closed. Thousands of Americans were homeless. Food riots broke out in several cities.

In 1933, the Second Bonus Army of World War I veterans, smaller than that of 1932, marched in Washington, DC. In 1924, Congress passed legislation awarding bonuses to the veterans for their war-time service, but the money was not payable until 1945.¹ Due to the Great Depression, veterans needed their bonuses immediately. Many states were still suffering through drought, loss of crops, and foreclosures of farms. The nation was in need of new leadership and relief.

Within the first week of his administration, Roosevelt challenged his staff to find a way to put 500,000 single, young men to work in a nationwide conservation project. On 31 March 1933, Congress passed legislation establishing the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Robert Fechner, an official of the machinist’s labor union, was selected as director of the CCC. At no other time had the government moved so quickly and with such efficiency. Only thirty-seven days elapsed between Roosevelt’s inauguration and the enrollment of the first CCC enrollee: Henry Rich of Alexandria, Virginia.²

The CCC program also involved the coordination and cooperation of four federal government departments: War, Agriculture, Interior, and Labor. The first enrollees came from seventeen eastern cities and were often sent far from home. Those city boys had to learn very quickly to adjust to outdoor life. This “volunteer army” was subjected to military



The original CCC uniforms were olive drab in color, as worn by Robert Alesandri (at left). On 1 February 1939, Frank Papuga models the newly designed spruce-green uniform: a two-button sack coat, a restyled overseas cap, and a red-and-yellow company insignia of his coat's left shoulder.

LC-H2-B-5266, Library of Congress, Washington, DC

physicals, routines, and discipline. Each man was paid \$30 per month, of which \$25 was sent home to his parents. Many of the early camps were tent cities located on military posts or in national parks. When the CCC took on a more permanent status, barracks (that each housed 40 men) were built. The local lumberyards benefited from that construction.

Regular or reserve officers from all branches of the military were put in command of the camps.³ The Army's camp commander (camp superintendent) and the park superintendent shared supervision. On average, each camp consisted of 200 men. Assisting the regular or reserve commanding officer were a supply sergeant, a mess sergeant, and a cook.⁴ By 1934, officers assisting the commanding officer were replaced with civilian employees.⁵ Additionally, the camp had a part-time physician, a minister, and a dentist.⁶ Later, each camp would also have a full-time educational officer whose purpose was to end illiteracy and promote job-skills training for the men.⁷ By 1939, more positions had been added to the camps: assistants to the commanding officers, clerks, and supply officers. In addition to the government conducting camp inspections, the superintendents were required to submit periodic reports describing the progress of the work and construction projects. Other government agencies (Department of Agriculture and Department of the Interior) supplied men to guide specific projects.⁸

The Department of Labor selected the men who wanted to enroll in the CCC. Each enrollee needed to be between the ages of 18 and 25, unmarried, and unemployed. In addition, an enrollee's family needed to be on the relief (what we now call welfare) roll. The War Department was responsible for physicals, transportation, food, clothing, and shelter.

During the early months of the CCC, the men ate C-rations. Many of the men were already underweight when they enrolled, and the eight-hour work days of hard physical labor took a toll on them. A nickname for the CCC emerged: Colossal College of Calluses. Camp commanders quickly abandoned the C-rations and started buying provisions from local farmers to improve the diets of the men. After that change, a CCC enrollee gained, on average, twelve pounds in his first two months.⁹

The U.S. Army's Quartermaster Corps, which was responsible for feeding and clothing the young CCC men, created a pamphlet that described menus for thirty days. The menus were adjusted for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners. CCC members in work projects in



CCC projects were undertaken in all 48 states plus the U.S. territories. This employee residence at Mount McKinley Headquarters in Cantwell, Alaska, was initially constructed by CCC enrollees in 1938.

HABS AK, 23-MCKIN, 1-A, Library of Congress, Washington, DC

Photographed in November 1940, this covered bridge three miles west of Colchester, Connecticut was repaired by CCC men.
LC-USF34-042444-D,
Library of Congress,
Washington, DC



remote areas received evaporated milk at lunch.¹⁰ Each man was given a modified military uniform and necktie, a denim work outfit, woolen pants, Army surplus shoes, a coat, and a cap.¹¹ The Department of Agriculture's Forest Service and the Interior Department's National Park Service selected and supervised the work projects. The camps projected a military image; the men rode military transport to work sites.¹² However, there was no drilling, saluting, or weapons training.

Typically, the young men had one year of high school education. They would enroll for six months with the possibility of three renewals. In May 1933, after First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt visited the Second Bonus Army, World War I veterans were encouraged to enroll in the CCC to ease their discontent. When she visited the Second Bonus Army camp, Mrs. Roosevelt sang along with the veterans, "Hoover sent the army; Roosevelt sent his wife."¹³ The First Bonus Army had been dispersed under President Herbert Hoover's orders.¹⁴ There was no age or marital restriction for the 25,000 veterans of the Spanish American War and the Great War (World War I) who enrolled in the CCC.

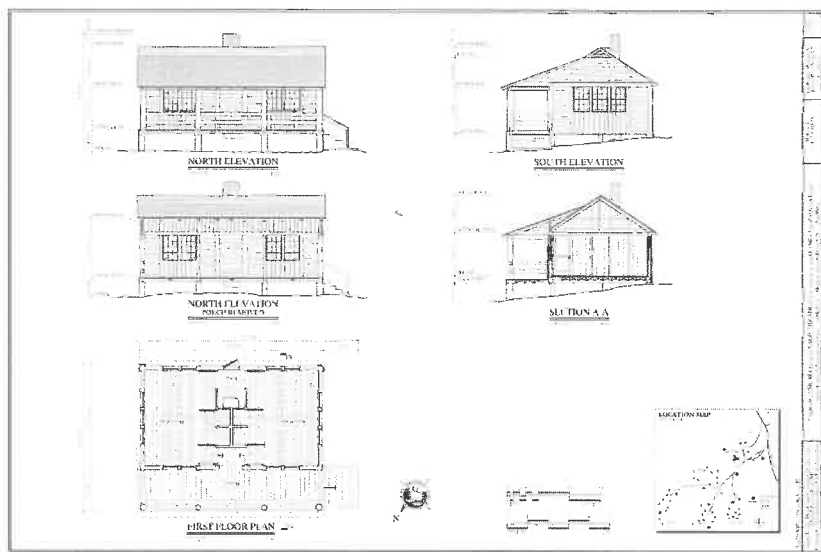
All camps were temporary and moved when a project was completed. By 1936, portable prefabricated construction materials were provided to make the move to another work site easier.¹⁵ There would be more than 4,500 camps throughout the CCC's history. An average of 1,600 camps were in operation each year. They were located in all forty-eight states and the U.S. territories.¹⁶

Besides young men and war veterans, CCC enrollment also was opened to local men with forestry experience (LEMs) who would supervise projects. Native Americans and unemployed women were also allowed to enroll. Neither LEMs nor Native Americans were restricted by age or marital status.¹⁷ In Alaska, 50 percent of the CCC workers were Native Americans. Those workers restored totem poles, and built corrals for reindeer and shelters for herders.¹⁸

After the urging of Mrs. Roosevelt and Labor Secretary Frances Perkins, CCC camps were created for women. Approximately 8,500 women participated in eighty-six "She-She-She Camps." Those jobless young women lived in residential camps, where they were educated and received training in sewing and clerical skills.¹⁹ The camps were eliminated in 1937 when Congress cut funding to many of President Roosevelt's New Deal programs.²⁰

Most of the conservation work in Great Smoky Mountains National Park was undertaken by the CCC during the 1930s. Shown here is a section of the Roaring Fork Motor Nature Trail near Gatlinburg, Tennessee.

HAER TENN,
78-GAT.V, 6G,
Library of Congress,
Washington, DC



Help's Quarters structure, which housed the kitchen employees for Cabin Camp 1, Prince William Forest Park, Triangle, Virginia, Built using CCC labor as part of the 1935-38 development of the Chopawamsic Recreational Demonstration Area.

HABS VA-1494-F, Library of Congress, Washington, DC



A CCC man shaping stone for use in charcoal burners at picnic grounds in Ross County, Ohio, in 1940.

LC-USF34-061437-D Lot 1039,
Library of Congress, Washington,
DC

A CCC man building a charcoal burner at picnic grounds in Ross County, Ohio, in 1940.
LC-USF34-061441-D,
Library of Congress,
Washington, DC



A Typical Day

The day for the men began at 6:00 a.m. with reveille, followed by calisthenics and breakfast. The men would then clean their barracks and campgrounds. At 7:15 a.m., they would be transported to the work project. They would work until noon. Lunch usually consisted of a cold sandwich, coffee, and pie. After thirty minutes for lunch, the men would resume work until 4:00 p.m. Occasionally, they would work on Saturdays due to previous days of inclement weather.²¹

Once back at camp, the men would clean up and dress in their uniforms for dinner. At 5:00 pm, there would be flag lowering, announcements, and inspections, followed by dinner at 6:00 p.m. After dinner, the camps offered educational courses and vocational training in areas such as carpentry, first aid, metal-working, photography, plumbing, and even French. One goal was to eliminate illiteracy in all of the CCC men. Local teachers were hired to educate them. Journalism classes in the camps produced newspapers, which would include camp news and the latest jokes.

When young men completed their enrollment in the CCC, they would receive a certificate describing their educational experience and vocational training, which helped them in their search for employment. After instruction time, it was “lights out” at 10:00 p.m. The camp commander did a bed check at 11:00 p.m. On weekends, there were religious services, sports activities, and excursions into town.²²

Work projects were conservation-oriented, including soil conservation, forestry, mosquito control, and road and park construction and improvement. Trees were planted, swamps drained, grazing land replanted, fish restocked, roads built, campgrounds created, fire trails made, and historic buildings renovated. CCC men also responded to disasters, such as forest fires, a hurricane in New England, and flooding in Indiana.²³

Community Opposition

At first, the camps faced opposition from nearby communities. Residents feared the “bums” taken from the welfare roll would become thieves or poachers. African American CCC enrollees were segregated and relegated to military bases and parkland, where they would not have any contact with the locals. The opposition to the camps decreased

*One of the CCC's goals was to eliminate illiteracy among its enrollees. In April 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt (seated) was presented with a copy of *Happy Days*, the official CCC newspaper, which declared P. J. O'Donnell of CCC Co. 1161 (Woonsocket, Rhode Island) as winner of the paper's national essay contest.*

LC-H21-C-724, Library of Congress, Washington, DC



On 3 March 1937, 22-year-old Elbert Jackson Lester of East Radford, Virginia, was the first CCC enrollee to be appointed to a civil service position. He was assigned to Camp Roosevelt. Left to right: Robert Fechner, CCC; Fred Morrell, Dept. of Agriculture; Lester; and Conrad Wirth, National Park Service.

LC-H22-D-935, Library of Congress, Washington, DC



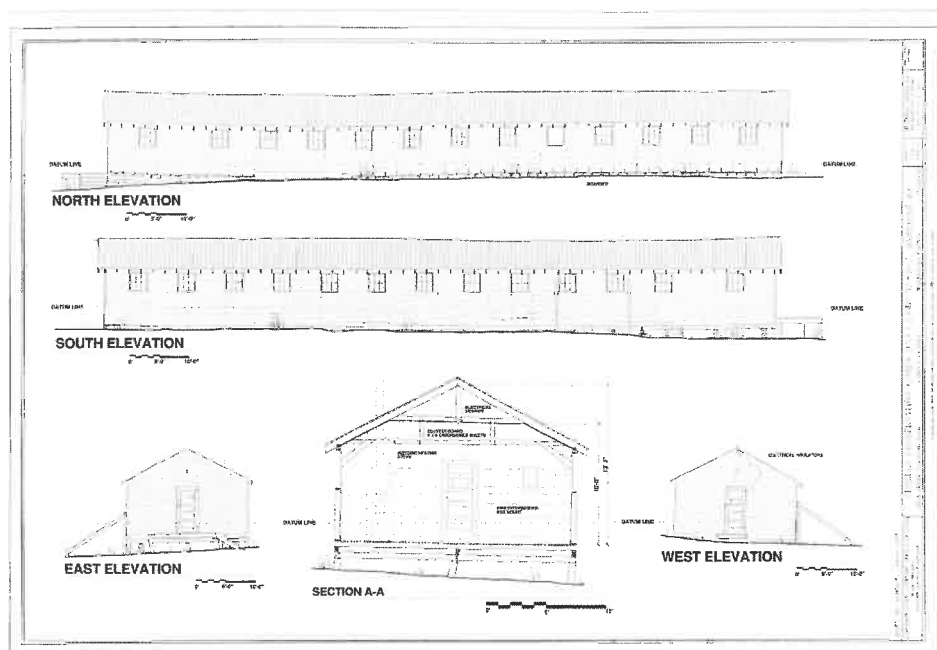
*CCC men weeding
loblolly pine
seedlings at
Tennessee Valley
Authority (TVA)
nursery near Wilson
Dam, Alabama, in
June 1942.*

LC-USW3-
004511-D, Library
of Congress,
Washington, DC

*CCC men at work in Prince
George's County, Maryland,
in August 1935.*

LC-USF33-000067-M3,
Library of Congress,
Washington, DC





Architectural drawings of Barracks No. 5, CCC Camp NP-5-C, built in 1934 on Mesa Verde National Park land near Cortez, Colorado.

HABS CO-198-A, Library of Congress, Washington, DC

as communities benefited from the CCC projects and the economic stimulation. The CCC hired teachers from the community to educate the men, local contractors constructed camp buildings, and cooks purchased local farmers' produce.²⁴

CCC Camps in Virginia

The first CCC camp in the nation was located in Virginia. Camp Roosevelt opened 17 April 1933, in Edinburg, Virginia. The 200 CCC men (including Henry Rich, the very first enrollee) arrived by Greyhound buses at the George Washington National Forest in a rainstorm. They had to clear the land for their tents. Their supply trucks with food and tents had gotten lost during the trip, so the commander quickly drove into the nearest town to buy hot dogs and supplies. One project of this camp was to re-introduce white-tailed deer (brought in from Pennsylvania) into Virginia.²⁵

Eventually, there would be 184 camps in Virginia. They were categorized as Private Forest, National Forest, State Parks, or Soil Conservation.²⁶ By 1941, the CCC had created eleven additional state parks in Virginia. In Shenandoah National Park, which had eleven CCC camps, the men planted more than 100,000 trees and shrubs, constructed trails, and built Skyline Drive.²⁷ In Colonial National Historical Park near Williamsburg, African American CCC men worked on archaeological digs and preservation at the Yorktown Battlefield.²⁸ Elsewhere in the state, CCC men built a summer camp for underprivileged children (in Prince William National Forest), built a visitor center (in Fredericksburg), and reconstructed Civil War-era trenches.²⁹

Fairfax County CCC

Fairfax County had two CCC camps. Both were south of Alexandria. One was located at Fort Humphreys (modern-day Fort Belvoir) and the other at Fort Hunt (modern-day Fort Hunt Park). In May 1933, a Bonus Army convention was held at Fort Hunt. Instead of receiving a bonus, those 3,000 World War I veterans were offered enrollment in the CCC. Ninety percent of them enrolled. Fort Hunt's CCC camp, designated as NP-6-VA, was for juniors (men ages 18 to 25). It began in October



*Queen Elizabeth (at left) and Eleanor Roosevelt leaving
Union Station for the White House.*
LC-USZ62-111580, Library of Congress, Washington, DC

CCC Boys Pay To Shake Hand Royalty Shook

**Pop and Shoe Shine
Reward Camp Chief;
5 Others Had the Honor**

*John G. Draganza's handshake
with King George VI was front
page news in the Washington
Post newspaper.*

*Washington Post, 11 June
1939, 1*

Washington patted itself on the back yesterday for having staged a completely successful reception of King George and Queen Elizabeth, sighed with relief and reminiscence and reported the visit's loose ends, to wit:

John G. Draganza, of Rochester, Pa., senior leader of the Fort Hunt CCC camp, who shook hands and chatted with the King, did a land office business on offers to shake hands with other enrollees—at a price.

One youth bought him a bottle of pop, another shined his shoes—all to press the palm that pressed the palm.

Until yesterday, the camp's "top kick" admitted, he had never even shaken hands with a Congressman.

Five other members of the camp who wanted it known that they had received the royal handclasp were C. S. Watson, one of the first CCC superintendents, and National Capital Parks Foremen Jack Newlin, Richard Knight, R. Herring and Edward Doerken.

Jeremiah O'Sullivan, of 4221 Seventh street northwest, had been reported as disappointed at not getting to the British veterans' reception because he could not find his Boer War medals until too late. Yesterday O'Sullivan, in a rich Irish brogue, noted that the story was not quite accurate. He has the medals, all right, but they were not awarded for his bellicose efforts in behalf of King George's great-grandmother, Victoria. He fought on the other side.

1933. The young men worked on establishing Fort Hunt as a park and recreational area, landscaping the George Washington Memorial Parkway, building sea walls, and creating a bird sanctuary (Roaches Run Waterfowl Sanctuary). Also, a museum laboratory was established at the camp where twenty enrollees, under the supervision of professional museum specialists, created museum displays and dioramas for eastern parks.³⁰

The Fort Hunt CCC camp was considered a “model” camp; as a result, the king and queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain visited. On Thursday, 9 June, the Roosevelts accompanied King George VI and Queen Elizabeth to Fort Hunt where the king and Mrs. Roosevelt took a brief tour. The senior leader of the camp, John Draganza, met King George VI and became an instant celebrity. Not only did other men pay to shake the hand that had touched royalty, but also Draganza was treated to a night at the Ambassador Hotel in New York City. He also received a job offer in private industry.

In early January 1941, a local newspaper reported that representatives from the Fort Hunt CCC camp and several other local camps were to march in President Roosevelt’s third inaugural parade on 20 January.³¹ By February, the Fort Hunt camp’s classification had been changed to defense.³² Its projects became more military in nature, including defense of the capital in case of war.

Fort Humphreys CCC

Fort Humphreys’ first CCC enrollees arrived in April 1933, received “conditioning,” and, in May, were moved to a camp in Maryland.³³ Then, more than 1,000 Bonus Army veterans arrived at Fort Humphreys in May to complete reforestation projects.³⁴

In June 1933, nearly 200 of those men were in a drunken brawl in the nearby small community of Accotink. The *Washington Post* reported, “The procuring of the whiskey began late last week; after the men had received their first allotment. . . . The liquor was obtained from backwoods bootleggers it was said, and some was actually smuggled into camp.”³⁵ Military police were called in to corral the men, take them back to Humphreys, and restore order to the nearby communities of Accotink and Pohick. As a result of this incident, fifteen of the veterans

were discharged from the CCC. Within a week, the men from this reforestation camp were sent to Vermont to work on flood control.³⁶

During summer 1933, the *Washington Post* reported that at Fort Humphreys “a small unit of 78 Negro youths in the civilian conservation corps is quartered in an isolated section of the Army post awaiting more recruits.”³⁷ Two years later, in September 1935, the CCC camp designated as Army 3-VA-2399 C (for “coloreds”) was officially established at what was now called Fort Belvoir.³⁸ African Americans had not been actively recruited to join the CCC. In response, the agency’s director, Robert Fechner, set a quota for African Americans of 10 percent participation. Fechner established this percentage because it equaled the percentage of African Americans in the nation as a whole. Although there had been integrated camps in New England, that policy officially ended in July 1935 when Fechner mandated that all CCC camps be segregated.³⁹

Military bases and parkland were considered ideal locations for the camps for “coloreds” because they were isolated from the local communities. The African American men were supervised by white Army officers, some of whom discriminated against the young men. The *Norfolk Journal and Guide* reported that a Harlem youth, Eddie Simons, had been dishonorably discharged and lost a month’s pay when he refused to follow an order to fan the flies off of a white officer. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People protested to Fechner, who erased the dishonorable discharge and directed that Simons receive the lost month’s pay.⁴⁰

At Fort Belvoir, the African American men worked on reforestation, erosion control, fire trail construction, and fire prevention tasks such as clearing out dead brush. On 9 November 1937, the camp’s enrollees fought a 200-acre forest fire and helped save several homes near Fort Belvoir. The *Washington Post* reported, “The company, composed of youths from Washington and northern Virginia, under the command of Capt. F.G. Bryan, Field Artillery Reserve, dashed to the scene in a half dozen trucks, carrying tools and wet burlap bags to help smother the fire.”⁴¹

On 1 September 1934, Senator Joseph L. Bristow of Annandale “suggested a CCC camp in that section of Fairfax County [Lee District, along Accotink Creek] for building roads through the dense woods as

CCC Boys Taught To Put Out Fires

Civilian Conservation Corps boys in all camps in or near timbered areas in the country have been taught proper forest-fire fighting methods this year, Director Robert Fechner announced yesterday.

Decision to require fire-fighting training was prompted by past experience which shows that each year CCC enrollees spend approximately 1,000,000 man-days fighting fires that develop in national, State and private forests in national and State parks.

C.I.O. Union to Support Telegraph Co. Employees

New York, June 24 (AP).—The American Communications Association (C. I. O.) voted today to intervene this fall in behalf of Postal Telegraph & Cable Co. employees negotiating for a new contract.

The present contract expires in December and negotiations are expected to begin in October. Shorter hours, a closed shop and a clear statement of classifications and pay rates were included in demands endorsed by the association.

Colonels.

Betty Jaynes, Virginia Grey, Lane Turner and Cecilia Parker were given titles of honorary colonels at the Hollywood American Legion.

Fighting forest fires was another significant contribution the CCC men made to our country.

Washington Post, 25 July 1938,

X16

TECHNICAL SERVICE, C.C.C.

Fort Belvoir, Virginia

March 8, 1938.

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. King.

1. For the past six months, the work in this camp has consisted of the following:

- a. Forest stand improvements.
- b. Fire hazard elimination, such as clearing out windfalls, dense underbrush, woods, dead trees, etc.
- c. Drainage to prevent erosion.
- d. Fire trails.
- e. Re-forestation and undifferentiated landcouping.
- f. Erosion control.

2. With the exception of fire trails, which were constructed on the outlying reservation, this work has been performed on the post proper, an area of about 1,500 acres.

3. For the next six months, it is proposed to complete the program set forth in the preceding paragraphs and if this work is completed prior to six months, the program will be extended to the outlying reservation consisting of approximately 1,500 acres. To complete the latter, which consists of approximately 80% timber land, 15% open land, and 5% swamp will require at least another year.

Frank L. Platt

FRANK L. PLATT,
Project Superintendent.

A six-month's summary of work accomplished by the CCC men of Fort Belvoir.
Records of the Civilian Conservation Corps 1933-1953, RG 35, National Archives,
College Park, MD

an aid in forest fire fighting.”⁴² The Fort Belvoir CCC men completed a fire trail that started at Old Keene Mill Road (near present-day Irving Middle School) and crossed Accotink Creek through what today is Lake Accotink Park. Using the fire trail, the local fire department could cross through the densely forested area. People who lived in the neighborhood also used the fire trail as a short cut. One area resident, Bill Sheads, described the CCC road’s benefits as follows:

As a youngster, the CCC road became a big part of my life. I traveled it many times with my dad, while going to his several sawmill locations. The new CCC road gave excellent accessibility to the central part of this large scope of forestland. It also provided access for recreation such as hunting, fishing, hiking, observing wildlife, and other activities.⁴³

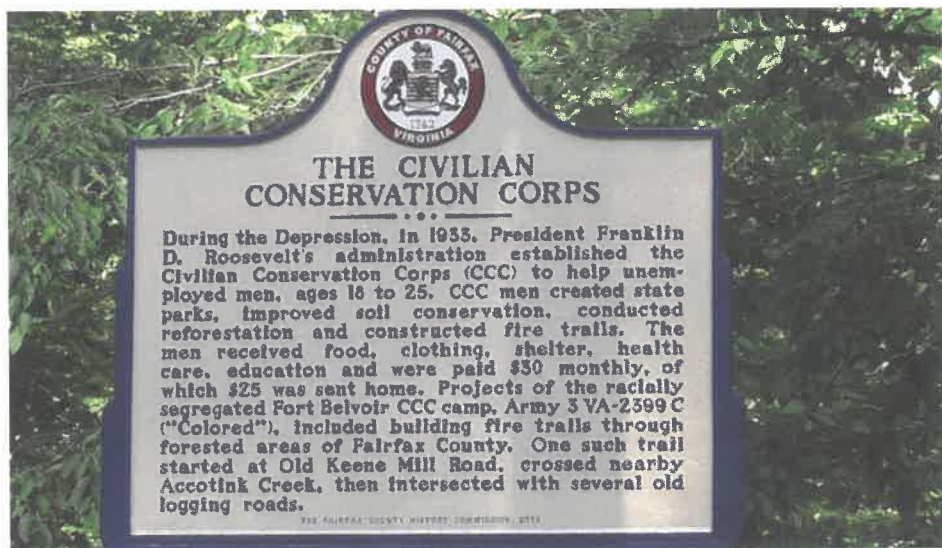
The Beginning of the End

In March 1938, Special Investigator Patrick J. King wrote in the *Supplemental Camp Report* that the Fort Belvoir men were worried about rumors of their camp closing.⁴⁴ As President Roosevelt attempted to balance the federal budget, the CCC budget for the fiscal year beginning in 1938 was cut by \$125 million. One hundred camps were closed in fall 1937. Three hundred more were scheduled to close the following year. In April 1938, when the country began experiencing another recession, and when unemployment increased, Congress approved \$50 million to keep 300 camps open. There were no further camp inspection reports for Fort Belvoir’s Army 3-VA-2399 C camp after March 1938.⁴⁵

After German dictator Adolph Hitler attacked France in 1940, some of the CCC camps were transformed to perform national defense. The enrollees at camps located on military bases learned military drill and were offered training in aircraft maintenance and radio operations. Those camps’ identification numbers now included (D) for defense.⁴⁶ By July 1941, Fairfax County had two CCC defense camps: Fort Hunt NP (D) 6 and Fort Belvoir NP (D) 5. At the end of fiscal year 1942 (30 June 1942), Congress discontinued the program’s funding. All CCC camps closed nationwide.⁴⁷



CCC Director Robert Fechner addressing the U.S. Senate's Unemployment and Relief Committee on 15 March 1938. Based on his belief that the problem of providing jobs for needy young men would persist for several years, he recommended the CCC be made permanent rather than allowing its authorization to expire on 1 July 1940. LC-H22-D-3482, Library of Congress, Washington, DC



*Fairfax County History Commission historical marker erected in Springfield to commemorate a fire trail constructed by men from the CCC camp Army 3 VA-2399 C at nearby Fort Belvoir.
Author's photograph*

All of the men enrolled in the Civilian Conservation Corps provided an invaluable service to our nation. Their allotments sustained many families during the Great Depression. Their work efforts restored, conserved, and protected our natural and historic resources. As the program ended with the onset of World War II, many of the men enlisted in the active military, where they were able to apply the skills they had learned in the CCC.

Their accomplishments were immeasurable. The enrollees' efforts repeatedly proved the CCC's unofficial motto—"we can take it"—to be true. Their legacy lives on today in Fairfax County and all across the United States.

Endnotes

- 1 "Time Line of the Great Depression," American Experience, PBS, www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/dustbowl/timeline/index.html. Accessed November 2014.
- 2 "CCC Brief History," CCC Legacy, www.ccclegacy.org. Accessed November 2014.
- 3 Stan Cohen, *The Tree Army: A Pictorial History of the Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933–1942* (Missoula, MT: Pictorial Histories, 2008), 6–7.
- 4 John C. Paige, "The National Park Service Camps," in *The Civilian Conservation Corps and the National Park Service, 1933–1942: An Administrative History* (Washington, DC: National Park Service, Department of the Interior, 1985), www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/ccc/ccc3.htm. Accessed November 2014.
- 5 Ibid.
- 6 Ibid.
- 7 Ibid.
- 8 Ibid.
- 9 Ibid.
- 10 Ibid.
- 11 Ibid.
- 12 Ibid.
- 13 Joseph M. Speakman, "Into the Woods: The First Year of the Civilian Conservation Corps," *Prologue Magazine* 38, no. 3 (2006), www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2006/fall/ccc.html. Accessed November 2014.
- 14 Ibid.
- 15 Ibid.
- 16 Ibid.
- 17 Ibid.
- 18 Ibid.
- 19 Hannah Traverse, "She-She-She Camps," www.thecorpsnetwork.org. Accessed November 2014.

- 20 Ibid.
- 21 Cohen, 55.
- 22 Speakman.
- 23 Cohen, 86.
- 24 Speakman.
- 25 "Camp Roosevelt." CCC Legacy, www.ccclegacy.org. Accessed November 2014.
- 26 Lisa Pfueller Davidson and James A. Jacobs, "Civilian Conservation Corps Activities in the National Capital Region of the National Park Service," Library of Congress, HABS DC-858. Accessed November 2014, www.loc.gov/pictures/item/dc1020.
- 27 Ibid.
- 28 Ibid.
- 29 Ibid.
- 30 Robert T. Nelson, *Fort Hunt, Virginia: A Historical Sketch* (Washington, DC: National Park Service, Department of the Interior, 1958).
- 31 "200 CCC Youths to March in Parade Tomorrow," *Washington Post*, 19 January 1941.
- 32 Nelson, *Fort Hunt*.
- 33 "Army Food Swell, Says Forest Groups," *Washington Post*, 10 April 1933, 3.
- 34 "Engineering School to Be Closed Today," *Washington Post*, 23 May 1933, 2.
- 35 "15 Veterans Lose Jobs as Mob Invades Town," *Washington Post*, 8 June 1933, 1.
- 36 Ibid.
- 37 Ibid.
- 38 Fort Belvoir Camp Inspection Report, March 1936," B I9 F J10, RG 118; National Archives Branch Depository, College Park, MD, "Fort Belvoir Camp Inspection Report, March 1938," B I9, F J10, RG 118.
- 39 Paige.
- 40 "CCC Youth Refuses to Fan Flies Off Officer: Is Fired," *Norfolk Journal and Guide*, 13 January 1934, 7.
- 41 "CCC Helps Save Fairfax Homes in Forest Fire," *Washington Post*, November 9, 1937.
- 42 "Fairfax Bureau of the Post," *Washington Post*, 1 September 1934, 3.
- 43 D.E. Sheads, (unpublished manuscript, 1 March 2006).
- 44 Records of the Civilian Conservation Corps 35.3.4 (Division of Investigation)," B I9, F J10, RG 118, National Archives, College Park, Maryland.
- 45 John A. Salmond, "Progress, Consolidation, and Dissension, 1937–1939," in *The Civilian Conservation Corps, 1939–1942: A New Deal Case Study* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1967), www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/ccc/salmond/chap10.htm. Accessed November 2014.
- 46 Cohen, 129.
- 47 "CCC Camps: Virginia," CCC Legacy. Accessed November 2014, www.ccclegacy.org/CCC_Camps_Virginia.html. Accessed November 2014.

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA, INC.

OFFICERS 2016-2017

President	Paul Kohlenberger
Immediate Past President	Richard Crouch
Vice President	Chris Barbuschak
Recording Secretary	Suzanne Levy
Treasurer	Elise Murray

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Term of 2014-2017

Jenee Lindner
Douglass Mackall III
David Myer
Anne Stuntz

Term of 2015-2018

Chris Barbuschak
Don Hakenson
Lee Hubbard
Virginia Rita
Claudette Ward

Term of 2016-2019

Karen Connair
Michael Frey
Marion Hiller
Susan Leigh
Margo Khosravi

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA, INC.

OFFICERS 2016-2017

President	Paul Kohlenberger
Immediate Past President	Richard Crouch
Vice President	Chris Barbuschak
Recording Secretary	Suzanne Levy
Treasurer	Elise Murray

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Term of 2014-2017

Jenee Lindner
Douglass Mackall III
David Myer
Anne Stuntz

Term of 2015-2018

Chris Barbuschak
Don Hakenson
Lee Hubbard
Virginia Rita
Claudette Ward

Term of 2016-2019

Karen Connair
Michael Frey
Marion Hiller
Susan Leigh
Margo Khosravi

Index

A

Adams, Leitha, 12
Ashford, Craven, 40
Ashford, William, 5
Atkinson, Bennett, 12
Atkinson, Margaret, 12

B

Bacon Race Church, 2, 3
Ball, W.W., 40
Barker, Charlotte, 6
Bell, John, 21, 22
Blancett, Benedicta, 1
Blancett, Jane, 2
Blancett, Rhodam, 2
Breckinridge, John, 21
Buckley, Hattie, 6, 11
Buckley, John Washington, 14, 15
Buckley, Wessalena Robey, 14
Buckner, Elizabeth, 1
Buckner, Peyton, 1
Burke, John, 24
Byrne, Mary, 12

C

Calvert, Burwell, 12
Calvert, George, 5
Calvert, Margaret, 5
CCC. *See* Civilian Conservation Corps
Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC),
 89-110
 Camp Roosevelt, 100
 Colossal College of Calluses, 91
 C-rations, 91
 Fairfax County, 100
 Fort Belvoir, 107
 Fort Humphreys, 103-104
 Fort Hunt, 100, 103

 work projects, 96
Clemens, Lochlin H., 57, 59, 69, 71-72
Cockerill, R.H., 24, 40
Committee of Nine, 24
Compton, Felix, 5
Confederate States of America (CSA), 21,
 36
Court's Place, 1
Crouch, Joseph, 5
CSA. *See* Confederate States of America
 (CSA)

D

Davis, Henry, 12, 13
Davis, Kenyon, 16
Davis, Linda J., 15
Davis, Lucinda, 6
Davis, Mary Mills, 5
Davis, Matthew, 5
Davis, Vienna, 6, 8
Douglas, Stephen A., 21-24
Dulany, William, 24, 26, 36, 41
Dunham, Thomas, 69, 72-73

E

Edwards, Thomas P., 55, 57, 59-61, 81

F

Faifax, Ann, 12
Fairfax, Catherine, 12
Fairfax, Eada, 12,
Fairfax, Elizabeth, 5
Fairfax, Eloise, 5
Fairfax, George W., 6
Fairfax, Gladys V., 11
Fairfax, Henny, 5
Fairfax, Henry, 2
Fairfax, Hezekiah, 5

Fairfax, Isaac N., 6
 Fairfax, James W., 5
 Fairfax, John, 1
 Fairfax, John Hezekiah, 5
 Fairfax, John Jr., 1
 Fairfax, John Walter, 2
 Fairfax, Jonathan, 2
 Fairfax, Mary Scott, 5
 Fairfax, Miner, 5
 Fairfax, Myrtle A., 11
 Fairfax, Nancy, 5
 Fairfax, Nicholas, 6, 11
 Fairfax, Sally, 5
 Fairfax, Sanford, 5
 Fairfax, Susan, 5
 Fairfax, Thomas, 1
 Fairfax, Thomas M., 6
 Fairfax, Thompson, 5
 Fairfax, Wellington, 6, 7, 10
 Fairfax, William
 of Belvoir, 1
 of Maryland, 1-2
 Fairfax Cavalry, 45
 Ferry Farm, 5
 Fowle, R.R., 24

G

Garner, William, 12
 Gordon, William Washington, 62, 66, 69,
 71-72, 75
 Great Depression, 89

H

Haggerty, Joseph, 72, 74
 historical markers, Fairfax County History
 Commission, 80, 108

I (none)

J

Janney, John, 32, 35-36
 Johnson, William Henry, 62

K

Kearny, Philip, 61, 78
 Kincheloe, James C., 6
 Kincheloe's Rangers, 6
 Kitt's Choice, 1
 Knight, Franklin L., 66, 69

L

Leesylvania, 2, 5
 Letcher, John, 24, 25, 35-36, 42, 57
 Lloyd, Ann, 12
 Loudoun County Scouts, 53
 Love, Thomas R., 24

M

Mackall, Dr. C.W., 40
 Moss, Alfred, 24, 26, 29, 40
 Murray, Thomas, 24

N

Newberry, Edward S.E., 51, 53-55, 57, 59-
 62, 66, 69, 72, 74, 78
 Norris, Catherine, 1
 Norris, Henry, 1

O

Oak Hill (Loudoun Co.), 2, 4, 5
 Oak Hill (Fairfax Co.), 55, 57, 59-60

P

Pell, Richard, 12
 Perkins, Frances, 93
 Philpott, Edward, 1
 Philpott, Elizabeth, 1
 Powell, John, 40

Q (none)

R

Rich, Henry, 89

Robertson, John, 26
Rogers, Hamilton, 2
Rogers, Mary Jane, 2
Roosevelt, Eleanor, 93
Roosevelt, Franklin D., 89, 107

S

Scott, Edward, 1
Scott, Mary, 1
Scott's Folly, 1
Secession Convention, 26, 29, 35-36
secession vote, Fairfax County, 42-45
Second Bonus Army, 89, 93
Simpson, French, 5
Simpson, William, 5
Stephens, Alexander, 36
Stuart, S.T., 40

T

Taylor, George W., 51, 61-62, 66, 69, 78
3rd Regiment NJ Volunteers, 53
Thomas, Henry W., 23, 24, 40
Tyler, John, 26, 28

U (none)

V

Van Dorn, Earl, 57

W

Warder, William, 12
Waring, Joseph Frederick, 57, 69, 71-72,
74-75
West, Robert, 5
Wise, Henry A., 26, 27
Wright, Sarah, 2

X (none)

Y

Young, Susannah, 6

Z (none)

JOIN FAIRFAX COUNTY'S PAST TO YOUR FUTURE

Well researched and entertaining, the Yearbook belongs on the bookshelves of genealogists, historians, archaeologists, scholars, students, and everyone interested in local history. The Historical Society of Fairfax County, Virginia, Inc. publishes this journal that focuses on the richness of Fairfax County's past. The Society also holds meetings at historic properties and features local historians and authors as speakers.

Join today to help continue the Society's efforts to record and preserve our county's history.

Annual dues for General memberships are \$20. Please mail your check to: The Historical Society of Fairfax County, Virginia, Inc., P.O. Box 415, Fairfax, VA 22038.



Visit our Web site:
www.fairfaxhistoricalsociety.org